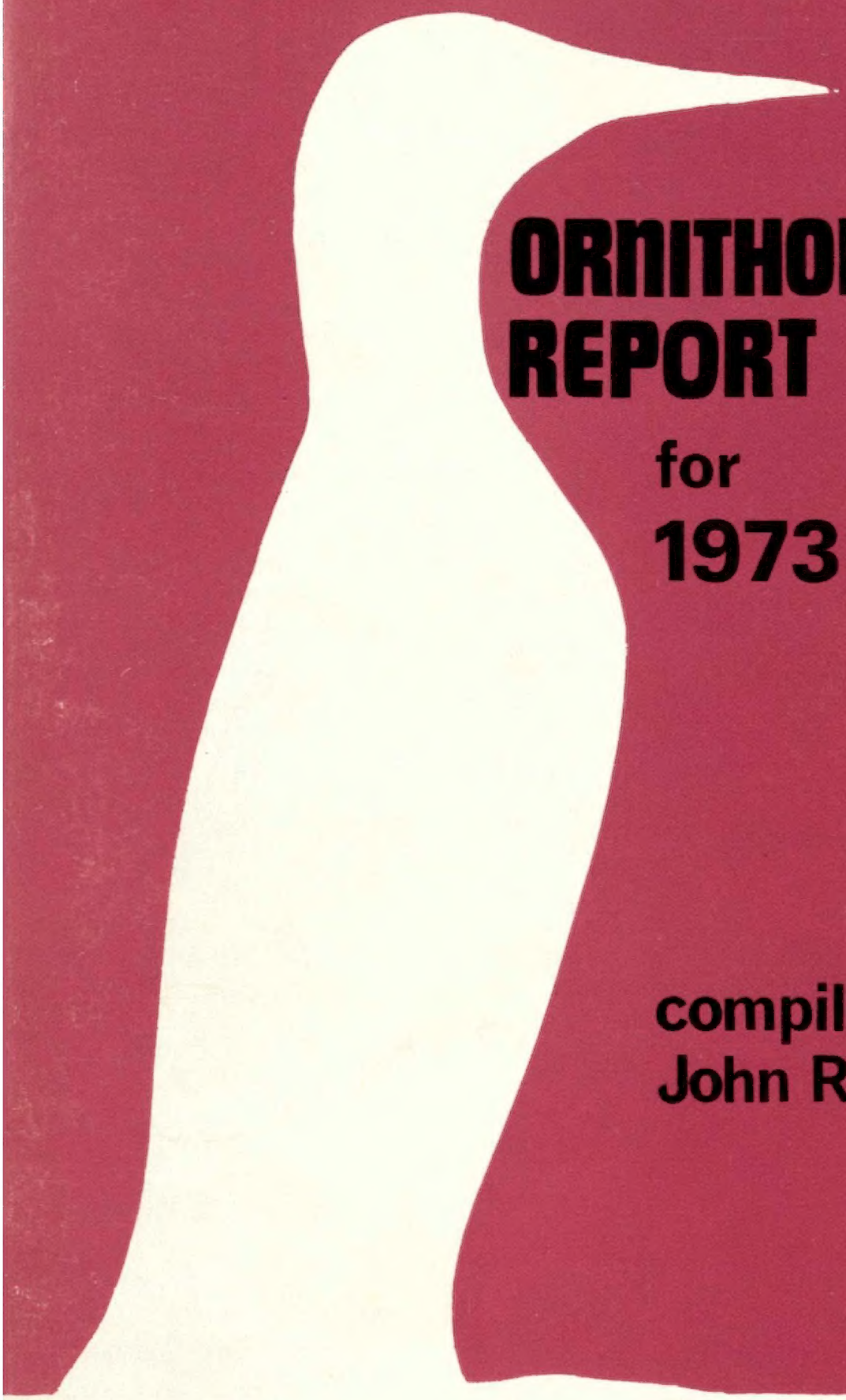
Yorkshire Naturalists' Union



ORNITHOLOGICAL REPORT

for 1973

compiled by:
John R. Mather

DUPLICATE COPIES AVAILABLE FROM THE VICE-COUNTY RECORDERS: **PRICE 30p**

YORKSHIRE NATURALIST'S UNION ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION

OFFICERS FOR 1973

Chairman: Arthur Gilpin, M.Sc. (Hon.), Leeds
Hon. Secretary: A. J. Wallis, Scarborough
Recorders:

V. C. 61 — East Riding	H. O. Bunce, 17 Orchard Road, Skidby, Cottingham. Tel. 849024.
V.C.62 — North Riding-East	R. H. Appleby, 38 Tennyson Avenue, Scarborough. Tel. 63941.
V.C.63 — West Riding-South	R. J. Rhodes, 11 Langdale Drive, Scawthorpe, Doncaster.
V.C.64 — West Riding-North	John R. Mather, 44 Aspin Lane, Knaresborough. Tel. 2775.
V.C.65 — North Riding-West	B. Shorrock, 7 East View, Settle.

The Recorders, together with A. J. Wallis form the Reports Committee.

REPORT FOR 1973 — Compiled by John R. Mather

A White-billed Diver found dead on Hornsea beach on 8th December was the ninth record for the county, the last eight having occurred at average four-yearly intervals. A party of eight Black-necked Grebes on Agden Resrvoir on 13th October should not occasion surprise; in mainland Europe the species appears in large numbers at times of passage and in winter quarters.

The Shearwaters were well represented with good movements of Manx in July, three Great Shearwaters in September, a Cory's in August and large numbers of Sooties in September. A Little Egret was at Seamer, near Scarborough on 27th May, and at Hornsea Mere on the 30th. A Glossy Ibis was seen at Spurn on 13th August and probably the same bird was inland at Wath Ings on the 22nd. For the third successive year, a Blue-winged Teal was at Fairburn Ings and a Green-winged Teal appeared at Gouthwaite Reservoir for the fifth year. Coastal records of Long-tailed Ducks were numerous and Eiders occurred in fair numbers.

Goosanders again nested and at least three broods were seen. The influx of Rough-legged Buzzards into Britain provided ten Yorkshire records from late September to the year-end. Three Goshawks were seen and six Ospreys passed through in April and May. Five Red-footed Falcons were recorded; another species occurring in Britain in good numbers during 1973. Fairburn Ings had a Kentish Plover in May and Dotterels were again reported passing through on a moor in the north-west. A Lesser Yellowlegs at Seamer, near Scarborough in May and June was a new record for the county and a Pectoral Sandpiper was at Fairburn Ings in May. An Avocet flew south at Spurn on 28th September and a Wilson's Phalarope was seen there on the 27th. All four species of Skua were represented including three Long-tails.

A Bonaparte's Gull from the new world and four Sabine's Gulls were exciting records and

no less so were single Caspian Terns, inland in April and at Bempton in July. An Alpine Swift at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 27th May was a species associated with the spring 'overshoot' and Hoopoes were at Spurn and inland near Ilkley in May. Spurn had a Short-toed Lark on 21st September and Golden Orioles occurred at Filey and Spurn in May.

A Savi's Warbler at Hornsea Mere in August and a Great Reed Warbler near Redcar in May were only the third and second records respectively for the county. An Aquatic Warbler at Spurn on 12th August was also a second county record. Icterine Warblers were recorded only at Spurn, in May, August and September. Single Greenish Warblers occurred in Locke Park, Redcar on 23/24th October and from 31st October to 2nd November. Yellow-browned Warblers occurred at Spurn and Filey in October. An immature Woodchat Shrike was near Easington in late August and the only Red-backed Shrike was at Flamborough in mid-September. Seventy Hawfinches in Studley Park in January was the largest number ever recorded in the county and numbers of Twite reached record proportions at several places. Scarlet Rosefinches were at Spurn on five dates in September and October and single Ortolan Buntings were at Scarborough in May and at Spurn in September.

Full details of all the records in the above summary can be found in the classified list.

The reports committee has reluctantly decided that no records of rare or unusual species which appear in local society reports will be extracted for use in the county report unless full details have been submitted for consideration. In the last two reports I have appealed for co-operation in this respect and although most clubs and societies ensure that records are properly dealt with, some do not and last minute requests for details, sometimes twelve months after the event, are detrimental to the publication date and in any case retrospective queries regarding records are not easy to answer so long after the event. It is the county report which is consulted by researchers; to sift through a multiplicity of local reports, each with differing acceptance standards and with varying methods of presentation is too onerous a task. It should be clear therefore that all important records must find their way into this report through the proper channels. Whilst I accept that birdwatching to most is simply a hobby and relaxation, and to some the paperwork associated with detailed record keeping is too much to bother about, any interesting birds which you may see are very important to us at county level and may well fit into a general pattern which is not apparent until all are viewed together.

As a committee responsible for the collection, assessment and eventual publication of bird records in Yorkshire we are deeply concerned that whatever appears in print is completely accurate. This applies not only to records of rare birds, but to such things as flock sizes (estimates can vary as much as 100% between observers), attempts to age and sex some species in the field (often unjustified) and careless reporting of common birds; overlooking one species in a flock composed of two similar species is not an uncommon error. To the more experienced observers some of these examples may seem unlikely but it should be remembered that we receive records from very many people of widely differing levels of experience and all have to be sorted and assessed.

Rarities of course need very careful consideration and those observers who take the trouble to submit detailed descriptions of the birds they see deserve to have them thoroughly and accurately judged. We have been fortunate in having a group of people acting as recorders who collectively have considerable experience of birds in all fields and throughout Europe. Such wide experience is very necessary when judging records and we hope that observers will continue to submit descriptions in the knowledge that the reports committee is at least sufficiently experienced to appreciate all the aspects fairly and to come up with a sound judgement.

We are very much aware of the fact that to many, the vice-county recorders will be little more than names and it was felt that some background information on each person would help to acquaint contributors with the people to whom their records will go. We were hesitant at first on what form this information should take in case we appeared to be glorifying ourselves. This we did not wish to do but simply to give facts of our birdwatching histories and some indication of our current interests. Below then, is a short pen portrait for each of the five recorders and for the committee secretary.

John R. Mather, 44, was born in Upper Nidderdale and moved to Knaresborough in 1936. He spent two years at Harrogate School of Art before starting work in the sign and display industry in 1947 and is now a director of a display firm in Harrogate. His interest in birds stems from boyhood and he began watching at Knaresborough Sewage Farm in 1945, where he was later to establish the Knaresborough Bird Ringing Station. He has served on the Ringing and Migration Committee of the B.T.O. and has been the Y.N.U. Ornithological Recorder for V.C.64 since 1962 and Editor of the County Report since 1970. He is currently Chairman of the Y.N.U. Research Committee and serves on the Spurn Bird Observatory Committee. He is an accomplished taxidermist and his specially built bird room houses a large collection of study skins and skeletal material which are invaluable for reference. Divers, birds of prey and warblers are his special interests. In collaboration with David M. Burn, he has just published a paper in *British Birds* on the identification of the two large divers — *The White-billed Diver in Britain.*

He has travelled widely abroad and in the British Isles with six trips through France to the Camargue, six to Majorca, three overland to Yugoslavia, two to Austria and also to Spain, Turkey and Morocco and spent two months in Egypt at the time of the Suez crises. He has therefore a very wide experience of the birds of western and central Europe. He has a deep concern for the accurate assessment and publication of records and a keen interest in the clerical preparation and presentation of reports.

Athol J. Wallis, 54, was born in Scarborough and has lived there all his life. He was educated at Ackworth School, near Pontefract, and is a store accountant with Debenhams Ltd. He is the third generation of a family in which natural history has played an important part of their activities. His interest in birds began, therefore, at an early age and has dominated his leisure time ever since. He became a member of the Scarborough Field Naturalists' Society in 1946, and held office as secretary for five years and committee member for many more. He is currently President of that society.

He is the B.T.O. representative for North Yorkshire. His connection with the Y.N.U. began when he took over from R. M. Garnett as Recorder for V.C.62 in the days when all reports were submitted to R. Chislett. He was, therefore, a founder member of the present Recorders' Committee, which he currently serves as secretary.

His bird watching experience covers the Scarborough district thoroughly and other parts of Yorkshire to a lesser degree. He has visited Scotland on several occasions. Abroad, he has made two visits to the Loire Valley in France; Yugoslavia; Majorca, which he has visited twice; Gotland in Sweden, in company with a local Swedish ornithologist, West Germany and Switzerland.

He lectures regularly on natural history, and has twice conducted week-end courses on ornithology on behalf of the North Yorkshire County Council. He has published a weekly 'County Diary' in the local Scarborough newspaper each week since 1949.

Henry Bunce, 61, was born in Hull and has lived there all his life joining the Y.N.U. in 1934 and being a founder member of the present recorders' committee. He is a director of a firm supplying parts to the motor trade.

His thorough knowledge of V.Cs. 61 and 62 and especially the distribution of birds within those areas, an aspect which is his main concern, has made him an invaluable member of the reports committee. He has travelled widely in Britain and has made ten trips to Sweden, which he can claim to know better than most Swedes, and one to France. His special interests are sea-watching and fall-migration and he is a keen bird sound recordist as well as being a fervent protectionist.

Henry is to retire from the Reports Committee at the end of 1974 and his steady and cautious approach to records and his experienced comments will be greatly missed.

Ron Appleby, 39, came to Scarborough in 1947 where, as a boy, he first became interested in birds and where he is now in business as a carpet specialist. He joined the Y.N.U. in 1964 and has since been an active contributor becoming recorder for V.C.62 in 1968. He has been a member of the Scarborough Field Naturalists' Society since 1957 and has held office as secretary and committee member.

He first started sea-watching at Filey Brigg in 1958 and has made this his 'second home'; spending every Saturday there (except for a short period in mid-summer). It is true to say that the only fixtures on the Brigg are the green tea hut and Ron Appleby. He keeps a special log book for the Brigg and has certainly been responsible for putting this important promontary on the ornithological map. It is inevitable that his involvement at Filey should have labelled him a 'dedicated sea-watcher' and such he is, being almost unequalled in the art of sea-bird identification. He is also keenly interested in waders and warblers.

In 1955, he served with the R.A.F. in Singapore and Ceylon where he spent fifteen months gaining a wide knowledge of Asian birds. He has visited most parts of the British Isles which have any ornithological connection and has been abroad many times, with two visits to the Camargue, two to Spain and also to Majorca, Sweden and the West Indies which he visited in 1972 gaining invaluable experience of many North American waders and warblers.

He is a committed and experienced ornithologist who is always willing to help others and show them his favourite coastal areas.

John E. Dale, 45, is a works manager for a large company employing 350 people. He has been interested in birdwatching since 1937 and on leaving school in 1947 approached the pursuit more seriously, meeting the late J. C. S. Ellis in 1948, whose help and encouragement was invaluable.

He is particularly interested in moorland birds and takes a special interest in the large gull roost at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir which he is currently studying. He has travelled widely in Great Britain. A founder member of the Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club in 1966, he has been their recorder and report editor since 1969. He joined the Y.N.U. in 1964, is secretary of the Research Committee, was elected to the ornithological committee in 1971 and became recorder for V.C.63 in 1973.

Brian Shorrock, 39, was born in Settle and after spending his schooldays and early working life in nearby Hellifield, returned to Settle in 1959 where he is currently employed by the Post Office. He is a member of the Craven Naturalists, takes a keen interest in the birds of the Settle area and for many years has contributed much valuable information on this important 'flyway' through the Pennines. He is a member of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club and is keenly interested in that country and its birds.

He has made three visits to France and Switzerland and has travelled widely in Britain. He has a thorough knowledge of the remote parts of V.C.65 for which area he became recorder in 1973. He is a keen protectionist and his special interests are birds of prey and waders.

I would like to thank all those observers who have sent records for 1973 to their appropriate vice-county recorder direct or via their local society. The recorders of most societies and clubs have co-operated fully and some have sent a draft of their report manuscript in advance of its publication. This is most useful as some reports are not actually published until late in the year. The list of contributors at the end of this report contains full names for those people whose initials appear in the classified list. Many more have contributed and their records have been used in compiling summaries. This hidden information is very valuable and I appeal for your continued support in 1974.

John R. Mather, Chairman, Reports Committee, October 1974.

THE NEED FOR FIELD DESCRIPTIONS

As stated above it is our aim to continue to present these reports with complete accuracy in order that those who use them in the future may accept the records of all species without doubt or query.

To maintain this accuracy contributors are reminded that all records of rare or uncommon and difficult species are considered by the Reports Committee before being accepted for publication.

The work of the Reports Committee can be reduced considerably if observers will submit descriptions *as soon as possible* after the bird has been seen. Details should be the description taken in the field, before reference to any text books, and should include the locality, date and time, habitat, weather conditions, optical aids used, etc. Forms, based upon the form accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee, can be obtained from any Vice-County Recorder for submitting details of any of the species listed below:

1 Uncommon and Difficult Species

BLACK-THROATED DIVER
GREAT NORTHERN DIVER
RED-NECKED GREBE
SLAVONIAN GREBE
BLACK-NECKED GREBE
LEACH'S PETREL
STORM PETREL
GREAT SHEARWATER
BITTERN
SPOONBILL
RED-CRESTED POCHARD
FERRUGINOUS DUCK
SMEW
BEAN GOOSE
SNOW GOOSE
GOLDEN EAGLE
ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD
GOSHAWK
KITE
WHITE-TAILED EAGLE
HONEY BUZZARD
OSPREY
HOBBY
SPOTTED CRAKE
KENTISH PLOVER
DOTTEREL
TEMMINCK'S STINT
PECTORAL SANDPIPER
GREY PHALAROPE
RED-NECKED PHALAROPE
STONE CURLEW
POMARINE SKUA
LONG-TAILED SKUA
ICELAND GULL
MEDITERRANEAN GULL
LITTLE GULL
SABINE'S GULL
ROSEATE TERN
WOOD LARK
GOLDEN ORIOLE
BLUETHROAT
MARSH WARBLER
ICTERINE WARBLER
MELODIOUS WARBLER
YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER
BARRED WARBLER
FIRECREST
RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER
RICHARD'S PIPIT
CIRL BUNTING
ORTOLAN BUNTING
LAPLAND BUNTING

2 *British Birds* Rarities

All rarities requiring submission to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee, last listed in *British Birds*, Vol. 67, 1974, pages 347-8.

3 Races

All well-defined races of common species, eg: Grey-headed Wagtail, Water Pipit.

Brief descriptions should normally be furnished in support of records of migrant birds seen out of season, and commoner birds seen in unusual circumstances.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS AT SCARBOROUGH — A NEW BIRD FOR YORKSHIRE

May 1973 was generally a month of wet unsettled weather. During the first week, an area of high pressure over Northern Europe and an approaching low from the south-west resulted in a period of south-westerly winds at which time the main arrival of summer migrants, mainly passerines, took place, including a male Ortolan Bunting at Scarborough on the 5th. This was followed by a fortnight of very unsettled weather but migrants continued to trickle in.

A high pressure centre from the west crossed Britain around the 19th followed by a low over the Bay of Biscay. This weather pattern produced southerly and easterly airstreams over Britain, creating perfect 'overshoot' conditions around the 26th and 27th when many unusual species were seen throughout the country, two of which occurred in the Scarborough district, at Seamer on the 27th.

The first was a Little Egret. This beautiful small white heron stayed all day, and gave fine views to many observers. It was later joined in the evening by a Lesser Yellowlegs, a North American wader which is not only a new bird for the Scarborough district but also for the county and there are now over 100 records for Britain and Ireland. The bird reappeared on 5th June having been absent during the interim.

The following notes have been submitted to and accepted by both the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union and *British Birds* Rarities Committees:

> "Period of observation: 20 minutes. Other species present: Common Sandpiper, Little Ringed Plover, Black-headed Gull, Herring Gull, Little Egret. Warm sunny weather, light south-easterly wind. Observed down to 15 metres. Binoculars 12 x 50: Telescope at 30x — and optics various.
>
> Larger than Common Sandpiper, about size of Redshank. A slender, tapered wader looking superficially like a Greenshank. Crown greyish with brownish streaks. Nape and neck greyish with brownish streaks on sides of neck. Upper breast; grey wash. Rest of underparts white, except for fine flecking on flanks noticeable only when preening. Long, yellow legs. Short straight bill, dark in colour, about same length as that of head. White supercillum not too bold, over eye which appeared dark. Back and wings darkish grey brown with light tips and edgings to feathers, except primaries, which gave the bird a spotted or mottled appearance, and made the primaries look darker. In flight this was not so apparent, the wings looking uniform darkish brown. Square white rump and tail. Quite rakish and not unlike a Wood Sandpiper. In flight the bird called once, a sharp 'queu'.
>
> Its general appearance was a slender, more or less uniform greyish brown wader with spotted appearance, white underparts, long yellow legs (one observer said almost stilt like) straight dark bill, and a 'capped' appearance. The bird had quite a jerky action when feeding, making short picking stabs. Occasionally running, almost ungainly, to catch something. Sometimes waded in up to belly and would pick something from the bottom. Quite wary and alert with occasional bobbing action of head. These notes and comments are compiled from those made and taken in the field at the time and immediately afterwards."

R. H. Appleby *et al.*

A NOVEMBER MEDITERRANEAN GULL IN UNUSUAL PLUMAGE

The Mediterranean Gull is now of almost annual occurrence in Britain in varying numbers, with a record number seen on the Yorkshire coast during the autumn and winter of 1973/74. One of the reasons for the increased British occurrences is a spread of its breeding distribution into Western Europe from Turkey and Greece to which areas it was virtually

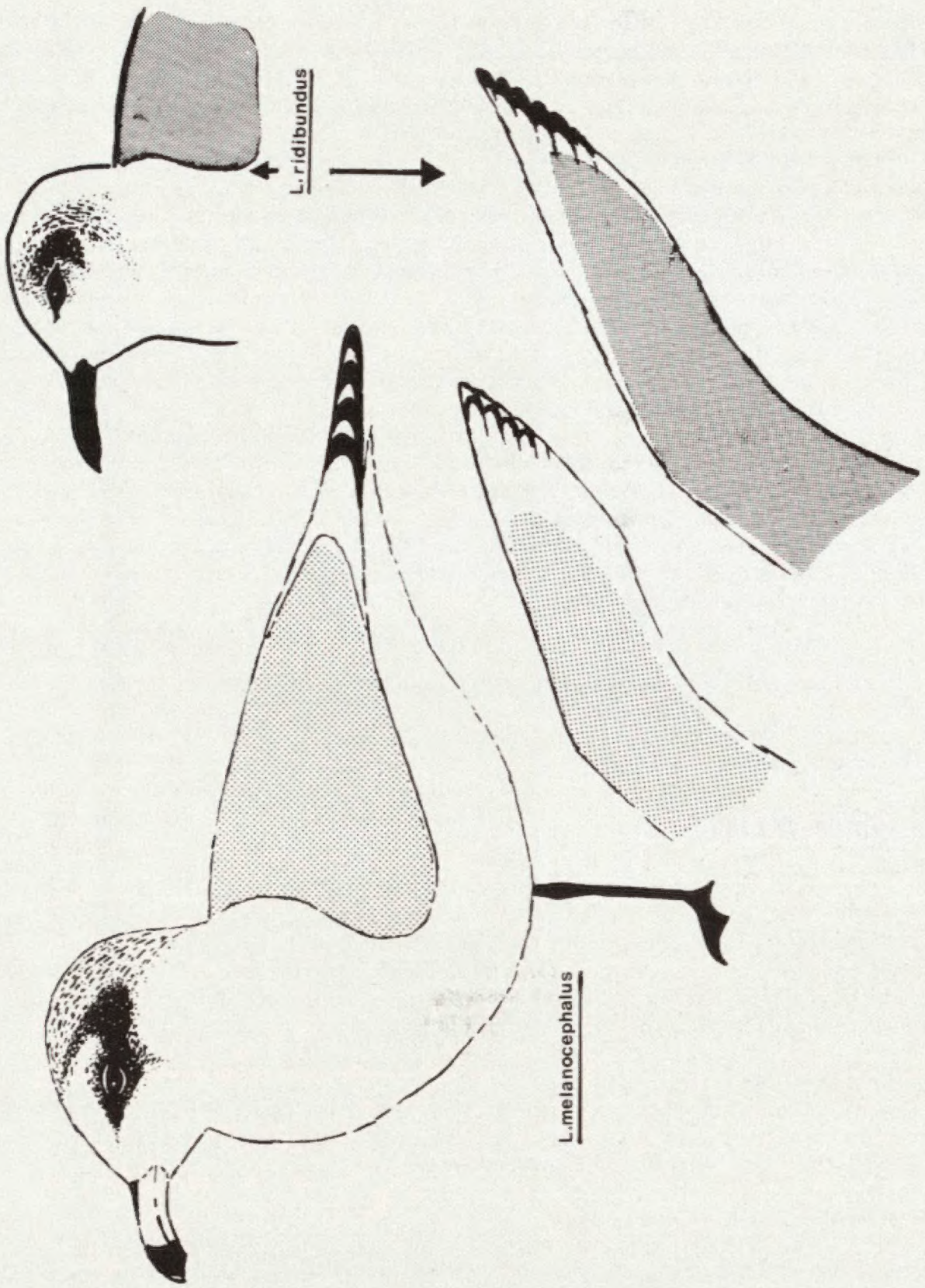


Fig. 1. Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* showing wing tip, head and bill patterns, Scarborough, Yorkshire, 3rd Nov 1973, with head and wing of Black-headed Gull *L. ridibundus* for comparison. Drawn by R. H. Appleby.

restricted as a breeding species until the 1950's. Of all the sightings of this species in Yorkshire, the descriptions have conveniently slotted into a 'typical' age group with the exception of one seen at Scarborough on 3rd November 1973. Although tentatively aged as 'in second winter plumage', it was by no means typical and is the main reason for this short note.

The bird was first seen at 1145 hours resting with Black-headed Gulls and Kittiwakes, and observed for an approximate total of two hours in moderate to good visibility at varying distances down to 20 metres. The most noticeable feature even at considerable distance was the 'mirrored' effect on the first four visible primaries. These had fairly broad crescentic shaped black bands near the tips and although most conspicuous at rest, were not so in flight. One of the most interesting features of the bird was the head pattern. This was made up of small black spots and streaks concentrated just in front of the eye, graduating out from behind the eye well over the ear coverts forming a 'phalarope' like mark, and curving upwards towards the crown centre. From here down on to the nape was finely streaked and spotted blackish, the forehead and rest of the head was white.

The most interesting feature of the bird was the bill pattern and colour (see fig. 1). The basal two thirds was an ochreous yellow, with a blackish ridge along the proximal third of the culmen. The distal third of the bill was blackish with a horn coloured nail. The dark tip accentuated the 'drooped' appearance of the bill.

Because of the time of year and interesting transitional stage of plumage, bill pattern and colour, it is not unreasonable to suggest, that there might well be a 'third winter' plumage in at least some individuals of this species.

R. H. Appleby

Scientific names of birds mentioned in the above notes can be found in the classified list below.

CLASSIFIED LIST

All the rare and unusual species in the following report have been considered by the Reports Committee and found acceptable on the written evidence supplied by the observers and have also been accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee where applicable.

The sequence used is that of the B.O.U. 1952 *Check List of the Birds of Great Britain and Ireland* as amended, but the nomenclature is that of the most recent British List, *The Status of Birds in Britain and Ireland, B.O.U. 1971.*

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

One on the sea in full summer plumage at Hornsea on 27th August (WFC). One flew south at Spurn on 13th September and five flew south at Flamborough on 23rd September (DIMW). One was in Filey Bay on 13th October (RHA).

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

19th July was an interesting date for one in full summer plumage to be on the sea at Hornsea (WFC). One off Filey Brigg on 23rd October (GTF) and a juvenile in the bay on 8th and 29th December with two on the 9th (RHA.DIF.FJT). One was in Bridlington Bay on 21st December (RL).

White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii*

A juvenile was found dead on the beach at Hornsea on 8th December by R. R. Lowe and taken to D.T.I. at Hornsea Mere. It was not oiled and only the second bird in juvenile plumage ever to be found in Britain. It was the ninth Yorkshire and the 39th British record. The skin is in the J. R. Mather collection No. XU.5. Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Birds were recorded off Spurn in every month with one to three on six dates in May, one on 10th June and one on 22nd July. From January to April and from August to the year-end most coastal areas had birds, the maxima being at Spurn with 50 on 25th February, 31 on 23rd September and 22 on 30th and 31st October, 188 on 30th December and 34 on 31st. The majority of the Spurn birds were recorded simply as *divers sp*; an occasional Black-throated may pass by unidentified but most are *stellata*.

Inland, one flew into Underbank Res. in V.C.63 on 26th March (RW.MW) and one was in full breeding plumage on Dale Dyke Res. on 30th July (KC.WJS).

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps griseigena*

One on the sea off Hornsea on 28th January and two there on 26th and 27th December (WFC).

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

One in Scarborough South Bay on 13th January (FJT.RHA.BC) and one on the sea off Hornsea on 26th December (WFC) were the only coastal records. Inland, one was at Fairburn Ings from 13th to 29th October (DJB.JDP.CW.*et al.*).

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

A party of eight on Agden Res. on 13th October was watched at ranges down to 20 metres for one hour (DH.DG). One at Fairburn Ings on 27th/28th October.

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

One inspecting the cliffs at Bempton on 1st October was only the second record in that month at a breeding site (HOB.JF). An August count on three miles of cliff from Red Cliff Hole to Close Nooks by S. C. Madge showed 312 chicks and a a further count from the Flamborough Fog Station to Sewerby showed a total of 350 pairs for the entire chalk cliff (complete chick count of chalk cliff from Fog Station to Buckton triangulation point on 18th August 1968 by A. J. Williams showed 285 chicks).

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*

One flew south off Spurn on 25th August (FJW). Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

Small numbers passed Spurn on a few dates from 22nd April with 26 on 28th May and 19 on 17th June as maxima. More passed from July to September when movement was also recorded from other coastal watchpoints; 30 north off Filey on 7th July, 25 south and 12 north off Scarborough on 15th July and 62 north off Filey Brigg on 28th July being the maxima, otherwise small numbers were seen on many dates up to end of September.

Great Shearwater *Puffinus gravis*

Two flew south off Hornsea on 3rd September (WFC) and one was off Flamborough on 30th September (SCM).

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

Recorded from several coastal watchpoints on many dates between 14th July and 15th October. Up to three birds were usual on most dates but there was a strong northwards movement in the second half of September with 67 off Spurn on 10th, 21 on 21st, 52 on 23rd and 74 on 30th on which date 70 passed Flamborough in two hours (SCM).

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

One was off Spurn on 30th September.

Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorrhoa*

One flew north at Spurn on 3rd October and one flew south on 2nd November.

Gannet *Sula bassana*

The Bempton breeding colony has again been studied by Miss Joan Fairhurst and H. O. Bunce: 14 birds were on ledges on 25th January. 150 to 200 birds were present at or around the colony on 29th July including breeding adults, non breeders and visitors (HOB). 42 chicks presumed fledged from 52 known eggs. 55 sites were occupied. All breeding birds deserted the colony by 28th September and the last chick fledged on 8th October having been unattended in the interim (JF). The bird ringed on the Bass Rock, first noted in 1971, again bred successfully.

Coastal movements were most in evidence during July to September with maxima off Spurn: 129 on 9th August, 238 on 14th and 268 on 15th.

One rested in a field at Wath Ings on 22nd April before taking flight (RW). One found in the Rivelin Valley on 3rd October was taken to a vet who pronounced it to be concussed. It recovered however and was released at Flamborough on the 6th when it flew off strongly (DG.DH).

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Occurred normally on the coast. Inland occurrences were too numerous to detail with 14 records from January to May and nine from September to December. Four at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 28th October was the maximum seen together. Two were at Fewston Res. on 13th May, otherwise seen singly.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Information from the main colonies was lacking. Five nests were occupied in the Lower Wharfedale colony (established in 1971) and were successful (GTF *et al.*). Two pairs reared five young at a site in Nidderdale for the first time (per MW). Away from breeding areas, the maxima occurred at Gouthwaite Res. with up to 18 in January, 12 in February, 15 in September, 13 in November and 19 on 30th December.

One ringed as a nestling on 24th May 1973 in Ostergotland, Sweden was found injured in Leeds on 28th September 1973.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

One at Seamer Gravel Pits on 27th May stayed all day and was joined by a Lesser Yellowlegs in the evening (RHA.WAC.BC). One at Hornsea Mere on 30th May was probably the same bird (JB.DTI *et al.*). Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

One was at Adel Dam, Leeds, on 16th January, one at Hornsea Mere on 22nd July (REB), one near Settle on 31st August (BS) and one at Potteric Carr on 18th November (IJI.MGI).

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

One flew south at Spurn on 13th August and one was at Wath Ings on 22nd August (G. Needham). Both records accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee. The same bird may have been involved.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Widespread and common with large assemblies during the autumn and winter months at the favoured waters; Hornsea Mere, Humber Wildfowl Refuge, and Leighton Res., the first two localities having maxima of 3,500 birds and the latter up to 2,000. Many other waters had up to 500 birds during the same periods. Castle Howard had 600 in January, 700 on 28th November and 1,000 on 30th December (JHL).

Teal *Anas crecca*

Seven breeding localities reported for V.C.63 and at Gouthwaite Res. 12 broods totalling 49 ducklings were counted on 25th June (AFGW).

Outside the breeding season, common and widespread with gatherings of up to 200 at a few places and smaller numbers at many. At Gouthwaite Res. 80 on 1st October built up to 270 by the 16th and 350 by the 19th as the water level dropped, exposing new mud. The maximum for the county was 1,300 on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 16th October.

For the fifth successive year, a drake Green-winged Teal *A.c.carolinensis* appeared at Gouthwaite Res. from 10th February to 7th April (DJB.PJC.AFGW *et al.*).

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Reported most numerously from the south of the county with a few pairs at eight localities around Doncaster. The first was a pair on Thorne Moor on 25th March (JH). Two flew south offshore at Spurn on 16th September and a pair was at Hornsea on the 18th (WFC). Fairburn Ings had two singles in April and up to three during July and August.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*

For the third successive year, a male appeared at Fairburn Ings, being first seen on 16th February and last reported in August (DJB.JED.JDP *et al.*).

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Very few records and involving only small numbers, up to five birds, during the autumn and winter months were received apart from Fairburn Ings where up to 56 were present in October and November and Hornsea Mere where the monthly maxima were: 120 on 7th January, 40 on 4th February, 10-12 in March, four to eight in April and May, 40 in June and July, 100 on 25th August, 140 on 7th October, 45 up to 24th November and four on the 28th when Mere frozen over.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Numbers were higher than for some years with V.C.61, as usual, holding the largest flocks; Hornsea Mere had maxima of 390 on 25th February, 920 on 7th October, 650 on 4th November dropping to 180 on the 29th when the Mere was frozen over. Three were present during May and June (DTI). The Humber Wildfowl Refuge had spectacular numbers with 1,000 on 24th January, 660 on 18th February, 750 on 18th March, 180 on 4th September and 750 on the 27th, 2,600 on 21st October, 1,600 during October, 2,700 in early December with 4,300 on the 22nd and 2,700 on the 27th (ACh).

Several waters throughout the county had small numbers, up to 50, and a few had large flocks; 100 at Settle on 3rd March (BS), 100 at Malham Tarn on 4th March, 160 at Stocks Res. on 27th January, 115 on 18th March, 115 on 17th November and 160 on 8th December (MVB). 300 were on the ice at Worsborough Res. on 30th November (PBW). *c*60 were at Healaugh Pond in January and November (DB *et al.*). At Spurn, 166 were on the Humber mud on 14th April, before leaving to the east as were small numbers on five days in early April. 102 on 18th September, 120 on the 23rd and 145 on 2nd November were the maxima at the year end.

A pair bred successfully at Grimwith Res. and four ducklings were seen on 7th July (MVB).

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Small numbers occurred at many waters throughout the county out of the breeding season. Maxima inland were on 40 on the Lower Derwent floods on 28th January and 16 on 30th December (GS.BC), nine at Knotford Nook on 28th January (RFD), 13 at Fairburn Ings on 11th February and 17 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 27th August with several waters having birds during the next few weeks. Eight flew west over Wintersett Res. on 6th March and nine were at Strines Res. on 2nd December. One was at Masham G.P. on 3rd and 8th June (PJC).

38 came in off the sea at Hornsea on 26th January and eight flew north offshore there on 18th September (WFC). 23 were on the Mere on 7th October (DTI).

The Humber Estuary Enquiry (Spurn to Goole) showed 184 on 21st October (per DBC) and 154 were on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on the same date and on the 23rd, with 84 on the 25th dropping to 24 by 30th December (ACh). These figures are exceptional for the Humber.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Widespread in small numbers, mainly at times of passage in March/April and August/October. Up to 70 were at Potteric Carr during January to March. Malham Tarn had 56 on 4th September and for most of the month with 49 on the 28th. 160 were at Fairburn Ings on 29th September. 70 were on Dringhouses Pond in mid November (DB.MR).

Hornsea Mere had 80 during January, 100 on 25th February, 120 on 17th March then smaller numbers during the summer (up to 12 in June) increasing to 40 by 25th August, 100 on 29th October and 180 on 24th November (DTI).

Scaup *Aythya marila*

Spurn had from one to three birds on a few September dates, one to six passing offshore on five October dates with a flock of 31 to 53 off the point from 24th to 26th. A few passed on four November dates with 18 on the 3rd as maximum. Elsewhere, coastal records were few with no more than low single figures involved at South Gare, the Scarborough area and Hornsea with 11 at the latter on 29th August the maximum.

There were several inland occurrences in all months from January to October, most frequently in September and October, from one to four birds being involved. A male was on Ogden Res. from 13th April to 5th June and one was at Wintersett Res. from 22nd May to 7th June.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

In V.C.63, RJR says the spread of breeding birds continues with records from three new localities. In V.C.64 the breeding population was certainly as high as in 1972 with good broods resulting at most waters. Malham Tarn had seven broods totalling 37 ducklings on 6th June and in Nidderdale at least 124 ducklings were produced.

Hornsea Mere had the largest concentration with 800 on 7th January and 850 on 4th October, the county's maxima. Assemblies of 100 to 200 birds occurred at several waters in autumn with 270 at Fairburn Ings on 18th September.

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Hornsea Mere held the largest numbers with 800 on 7th January, 400 on 4th February and in July and 650 from 4th to 10th October. Malham Tarn had 214 on 17th January and 100 on 27th October as maxima. 310 were on Coniston Cold Lake on 29th September with 150 Tufted Ducks (MVB). Elsewhere, most suitable waters held smaller numbers during the autumn and winter months.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

One at Langsett Res. on 4th September (KC), one at Treeton Dyke on 20th and 21st October (RAF.DV.MS) and one at Broomhill Flash on 28th October (RW) may have been the same bird. Published with the *escape* proviso.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Widespread during the winter months but numbers rarely exceeded 20 birds. A few lingered into May with one at Chelker Res. on the 10th, one at Ringstone Edge Res. on the 12th, one male at Scargill Res. on the 13th and one at Swinsty on the 23rd. An immature male was at Blackmoorfoot Res. from 23rd June through to August and one was at Hornsea Mere from 28th May to 25th August. At Swinsty Res. there were five on 28th June, a male on 1st July, a pair from 4th to 12th July, three females on 14th July with four on the 17th and five on 19th August. Gouthwaite Res. had a *brownhead* from 3rd to 31st August. The maxima were 30 at Castle Howard on 25th February, 40 at Fairburn Ings on 11th March, 80 at Tophill Low Res. on 3rd March, 55 on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 2nd December, 30 at Wintersett Res. in late December, and at Hornsea Mere 58 on 14th January, 140 on 18th February, 180 on 17th March, 187 on 14th April, 40 from 14th to 29th October and 75 on 24th November.

At Fairburn Ings on 30th November, a female was picked out of the water by a Great Black-backed Gull, killed and then partly eaten (GC).

Spurn had birds at both ends of the year with the maxima during October and November; 25 on 20th October and small numbers passing south on ten days in November.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

In contrast to 1972, coastal records were numerous with exceptional numbers involved: Bridlington Bay had up to seven during January and two on 1st April, 15 on 14th December, 35 on the 16th, 27 from 18th to 21st, 39 on 24th and 36 on 25th (RL). Filey Bay had one in January, three on 2nd March and eight on 10th, with six remaining at the month end, three on 27th October and one to two on three other dates in November and December (RHA). Six were at South Gare on 14th January (DGB). At Cornelian Bay (Scarborough south); six on 27th October, eight on 4th November, 11 from 9th to 20th, 13 from 22nd to 27th and 14 on the 28th (IJP). There were other records of singles at Scarborough North Bay and South Gare. Spurn had one on 21st August and movement offshore on five October dates with five on 24th as maximum. Hornsea Mere had one during January and February, with two from the 25th February to 24th March and from 14th to 25th April and one on 4th, 24th and 25th November (DJB.DTI). Singles were at Tophill Low Res. on 28th January, 3rd March and 22nd May. Inland, a male occurred at Stocks Res. on 11th November (SJB), a female at Drax Pond from 11th to 15th November (RFD.JDP) and a female at Ogden Res. from 26th November to 23rd December (DJSut. *et al.*).

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

The only birds in the early months were at Spurn with two on 21st April and one on the 28th. Two were there on 9th June. Occurred at Spurn and several other coastal watchpoints from 28th July to year end, usually in small numbers, nine at Saltburn on 4th October (GWF), seven off Spurn on 28th October and seven off Filey on 10th November (RHA) being the maxima.

Inland, two drakes were on Grimwith Res. on 18th May (Dr. and Mrs. GBR).

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

There were numerous inland occurrences. One female at Denaby Ings on 18th April which stayed for several days was the only record in the early months. Several occurred from June to September at 11 waters, mainly during June and July and usually small numbers; 22 males at Leighton Res. on 14th June, 13 at Swinsty Res. on 22nd July and 65 flying west over Wintersett Res. on 28th July were the only double figures.

Coastal occurrences were normal with birds in every month, the maxima being recorded at Spurn with 455 on 28th July, 100 on 25th and 26th August, 188 on 16th September, 134 on 30th October and 194 on 2nd November.

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

Occurred on the coast off Filey, January to April and October to year end with one on 4th August. 16 on 24th March, 17 on 7th April and 15 on 25th April were maxima in early months and 15 on 8th December at the year end. The Bridlington/Flamborough area had seven on 10th February and 11 on the 18th. One on 16th July was the first in the autumn with six on 2nd August the next. Six present during September and on 9th December with up to 14 present to year-end. Recorded in small numbers in all months off the Scarborough coast. 10 were off the South Gare to Saltburn stretch in mid-November increasing to 53 by the year-end (DJB). One to three were at Spurn in April with six on 5th May and one on the 13th. Two on 7th July and one on 17th August. 10 on 4th October, one to two on several dates to 1st December, 15 flying offshore on 15th November and nine off the point on 10th December.

A party of 10 flew inland from Trent Falls on 22nd December (AG) and 10 were on Leighton Res. on 4th November (one sub-adult ♂, 3 juvenile ♂♂ and six ♀♀) (MAB).

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Coastal occurrences from January to April and September to year-end were recorded from several watch-points involving small numbers, seven on 25th April at Filey (SCM), eight at Spurn on 31st October and nine on 2nd November being the maxima apart from 32 flying north off Filey on 7th October (DEM).

Inland occurrences were very few outside the breeding season and involved only low single figures. A drake at Knotford Nook on 6th May and one at Gouthwaite Res. on 30th June were unusual. Two pairs bred successfully at the usual locality.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

The maximum at Hornsea Mere was 18 on 18th February, many fewer than in 1972. Leighton and Roundhill Reservoirs produced good numbers with 46 on 27th January, 37 on 18th February and 20 on 11th March being the maxima. 18 were on Semerwater on 9th January and into February (DTM) and 19 were at Castle Howard on 20th January (JW.PH).

During late November and December, there was an obvious influx into the county with birds appearing at many waters for the first time and numbers at regular waters increasing. Some maxima were 28 on the river at Settle on 26th November, 12 flying west over Ben Rhydding on 2nd December, 28 at Leighton Res. on the 4th, 34 at Malham Tarn on the 8th, 28 at Tophill Low Res. and 14 at Winterburn Res. on the 9th and 10 at Fairburn Ings on the 28th, when there were 25 on the small Aldfield Pond, near Ripon and 26 at Eccup Res. on 30th.

Three broods of ducklings (nine, four, four) were on the River Ure in Wensleydale in May and June and a further five females were present (JH.DIF).

Amendment to 1972 Report: Last line should read . . . River Ure near Leyburn, not River Wensley.

Smew *Mergus albellus*

The *redhead* at Knotford Nook G.P. which arrived on 26th December 1972 remained until 23rd March.

Single *redheads* were at Leighton Res. on 18th February (PJC.FS), Fairburn Ings in January and from 19th March to 11th April (ECS.RFD) and at Wintersett Res. on 24th March (PS.JSA). A drake was at Almholme from 24th to 28th January (JP.MD).

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Two pairs bred near Lisset and one pair with three young was seen at a gravel pit, five miles inland near Brandesburton on 5th June (CV.RV).

Inland occurrences followed the normal pattern of small numbers at several places during the early and late months, mainly during January with 19 at Semerwater (DTM) and 26 at Chelker Res. on the 1st and odd birds at a few other waters during the month. Five were on Swinsty Res. on 28th June (GTF) and 10 at Fairburn Ings on 4th October.

Maxima on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge were 114 on 29th January, 230 on 20th February, 192 on 18th March, 346 on 23rd September, 633 on 13th October and 394 on 31st November.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Hornsea Mere had three during January to early March, 12 on 9th March and present up to May with 18 on the 28th, 16 on 23rd June, 31 on 9th July and smaller numbers to year-end. Introduced birds are obviously involved and such no doubt accounted for 15 at Wintersett Res. on 21st June. Several records of single birds and small parties down at waters, sometimes with *Canadas* are no doubt introduced birds. One caught at Swinton Park, moulting with Canadas, had been released as an eight-week old gosling at Canterbury, Kent in 1968 (per AFGW) and gives some indication of the origin of such isolated summer records. 30 flying west over Settle on 23rd September were no doubt of more normal origin (BS) as would be 50 flying south-west over Lindley Res. on 14th November (GTF).

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Seven were at Hornsea Mere from 3rd to 10th March (DTI). An immature was at Farnham G.P. on 18th February (RE) and what was no doubt the same bird was at nearby Nidd Hall on 1st April (FS).

Bean Goose *Anser fabilis*

One was with three *Pink-feet* near Scarborough from 13th to 16th January (IJP.RHA *et al.*).

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

The Humber Wildfowl Refuge had an isolated peak of 1,785 birds on 10th February after 800 on the 4th and a drop to 940 by the 17th. 337 remained on 21st February but all had gone next day. The first to return were 18 on 17th September, building up to 200 by 3rd October, 790 by 16th and 995 at the month end. 1,005 on 6th November was the autumn peak with none from the 27th to 30th and only up to 300 during December with none on the 29th and 30th.

A few small skeins were moving across the county in the early months, those during January and February no doubt contributing to the Humber peak. At the year-end, flocks were seen moving over several areas coinciding with the December reduction in the Humber population, the largest being 120 flying west over Harthill Res. and 285 over TrentFalls on the 23rd and three skeins totalling 290 flying east over Wintersett Res. on the 27th.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

The bird of 1972 remained at Harewood Lake during January and from April to June (ECS). Published with the escape proviso.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

Six (two adults and four first-year) were at Spurn on 16th/17th January and again on 27th (when one first year bird was missing), the five remaining until 11th February. Five on 3rd March and eight on the 4th. In October, five were on the Humber on the 13th, seven flew south and three were on the Humber on the 14th, seven on the 16th, and six on 17th/18th. One flew south on the 19th, six flew south on 1st and 2nd November, and two south on the 18th.

Two were at Faxfleet on 8th April and eight flew south off Scarborough on 12th October.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

One flew south off Spurn on 3rd January.

One was at Castle Howard with the Canada Goose flock on 27th and 28th October (DB. TC.BP).

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

535 were at Harewood Lake on 18th February including a *leucistic* bird. 208 goslings were produced at 17 waters in the Nidderdale and Wharfedale areas. The usual autumn assemblies occurred, with 585 at Masham G.P. on 16th September, 520 at Ripley Lake on 2nd October and 380 at Studley Lake at the end of September the county's maxima.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

The pattern of occurrences was normal with small numbers at many suitable waters, and a few flocks of up to 16. 26 on flood water at Long Preston on 4th March and 24 at Wintersett Res. on 5th/6th March were the largest assemblies.

The bird which was present at Welbeck Sand Quarry during 1972 remained throughout 1973 (PS). One was at Denaby Ings from 10th April to 27th May (RJR). One was at Almholme from 29th April to 20th June (JP *et al.*) and one was at Elsecar Res. from 18th to 22nd June (PM). One moved between Broomhill Flash and Wath Ings during 3rd June to 7th July (NA *et al.*) and one was at Treeton Dyke from 7th July to 8th December (RAF).

Two at Chelker Res. on 18th September (FAW) were the first and early, the next being three over Knaresborough Ringing Station on 11th October after which date several waters had small numbers, the maxima being 22 at Fairburn Ings on 30th November and 23 on 28th December and 22 at Strines Res. on 2nd December. 17 were on Semerwater on 2nd November with 24 on 13th/14th (DTM). 17 flew south over Leyburn on 17th November (DIF). Elsewhere numbers did not exceed 10 birds.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus bewickii*

No large assemblies were reported, the maxima in the early months being 20 on floodwater near Settle on 4th March (BS) and 39 on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 18th March (ACh).

Small numbers appeared from the end of October, the main influx being in early November with seven at Fairburn Ings on the 1st and 2nd, 22 on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge, and eight at Knotford Nook on the 4th. The Lower Derwent floods were not reported during the early months but had 16 birds from 23rd to 29th December. Elsewhere, numbers not exceeding 10, occurred at several waters.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Several records, mainly of single birds, from the high ground in the west of the county and mainly during the winter months, most numerously from Upper Nidderdale where there were up to three during November, six on 2nd December and four on eight other dates to year-end. A few were recorded flying over the lower ground and in the foothill areas: one near Easingwold during January and February, one over Ilkley on 5th February, two over Spa Gill near Ripon in March, one over Brandsby on 5th and 10th July, one over Fairburn Ings on 20th September, one over Knaresborough Ringing Station on 13th October, one over Thorne Moor on 26th November and one flew over York on 23rd December. One flew south at Bempton on 17th July and two flew south at Spurn on 19th September with one on the peninsula on 18th October.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

The large numbers which came into Britain during late September and October were reflected in Yorkshire. The first reported was at Haxby on 28th September (AW). One flying over Lindley Res. on 12th October (PJC), and one flying south at Whitby and one at Scarborough on the 18th (CH.ME.IJP).Single birds flew south at Spurn on 21st and 28th October, one flew west over Knaresborough Ringing Station on the 28th (RE.JRM.MAW) and two were in the Broomhead/Langsett area, west of Sheffield from 28th October to the year-end (DH.DG.IF.MGO). One was on Thorne Moor on 28th November (RV) and again on 25th/26th (JMB). One was on Baysdale Moor on 21st November (DB) and one was on the North Yorkshire Moors on 9th December (BP).

Full descriptions of all these birds were submitted to the Reports Committee.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Widespread reports, mainly from V.Cs. 63 and 64, in all months of the year. The species is obviously becoming more widespread and it is hoped that it is allowed to go unmolested.

Spurn had some passage birds, mainly during the autumn, one on 31st March being the only spring record. In September, singles on 14th when one was also at Flamborough, 24th and 25th, and in October, two on 12th and 22nd with one on 16th to 18th and on 23rd and 24th.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

An immature bird was present in the area of Lindley Res. from January to March (PJC.FAW. *et al.*).

One was at Stocks Res. on 11th November (SJB) and one was seen near Worsborough on 23rd and 31st December (AGB.DJS.MT *et al.*).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

One was present from 15th October to the year end at a locality east of York (PH.MS *et al.*).

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Single birds recorded on several dates from July to November in the Trent Falls area of the upper Humber. Singles passed at Hornsea Mere on 27th May and on 29th September, the latter staying until the 30th. At Spurn, one flew up the Humber on 6th May and one flew south offshore on the 12th. One flew up the Humber on 11th August and two flew south and two singles flew north up-river on 18th September with singles flying south on 19th and 20th. One was at Castle Howard Lake on 14th May (PH) and a female was at Fairburn Ings on 24th/25th August.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Winter records mostly of single birds came from several areas, mainly on the high ground. A male was at Hempholme in the River Hull valley on 7th September (WFC). Birds were recorded during the summer months at three localities in the mid-west.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

A first-year male came in off the sea at Spurn on 12th May and one was at Fairburn Ings on 25th August.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

One circled over Almholme for a few minutes before flying north-west on 26th April (DF). Singles in the south of the county at Wath Ings on 6th May (NA), Langold Lake on 8th May (GMD), Bessacar, Doncaster on 11th May (JMB) and further north at Knotford Nook G.P. on 22nd May which was at Eccup Res. later the same day (DMP). One at Grass Woods on 27th May (PMW.JCL. *et al.*). One was at Fairburn Ings from 9th to 13th September.

Hobby *Falco subutteo*

At Spurn, singles flew south on 28th and 29th May, one north on 3rd June and one south on 18th August. One at Fairburn Ings on 20th May, one near Bubwith on 23rd May (PH). One at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 28th May (PTT) and an adult on 18th July (JRM.RE.DRJW). One flew over Bessacar, Doncaster on 21st July (JMB) and one was at Potteric Carr on 20th September (IJI).

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

V.C.61; one at Spurn on 15th and 17th October was thought to be the same bird and one flew south on 13th November. One at Atwick on 1st February (WFC) and one came in off the sea at Hornsea on 6th September (WFC).

V.C.62; one flew north at Scarborough on 11th April (CRC), one stooped at Woodpigeons in Bransdale on 18th August (LS) and one stooped into Clayton Bay on 29th December (RHA.CRC).

V.C.63; one over Mickleden Edge on 24th June (JED) and one over Lindley Moor on 1st July (JMD).

V.C.64; one over Guisburn Forest on 26th April (MVB), singles at Appletreewick on 29th March and at Skirfare Bridge on 3rd April (SB) over Fairburn Ings on 29th April, near Settle on 17th April (adult), 28th September (juvenile) and 10th November (adult) (BS), one on Burnsall Fell on 26th October (PMW) and at Gouthwaite Res. on four dates in November and December, two birds being involved (PJC).

V.C.65; a pair bred successfully at one site.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Although birds were present during the summer months at several moorland sites, successful breeding was reported from only two. Outside the breeding season the species was widely reported, most numerously during September and October when the coastal records also occurred with singles at Bempton on three September dates and at Spurn on 9th September and six dates in October with two on the 26th.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

There were many records of this species in Britain during the year and Yorkshire had several: a first-year female was at Spurn from 23rd to 26th May, a first-year male on 2nd June and a second-year male on 9th June. An adult male was at Hornsea Mere on 14th June (DTI), and an immature was at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 27th August (JRM.PTT.DTMcA).

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Common and widespread throughout the county. Passage at Spurn in autumn was much less in evidence than in 1972.

Black Grouse *Lyrurus tetrix*

The Tan Hill lek had up to 6 ♂♂ regularly during April (GEA) and 11 ♂♂ and 4 ♀♀ on 6th May (RFD). 6 ♂♂ were at Widdale, near Hawes on 30th April (DTM). 2 ♂♂ were regularly seen on Barden Moor throughout the year (PME.PMW. *et al.*). There were a few other records of single birds in the general area of the north-west.

Partridge *Perdix perdix*

The general impression was that the species had a good breeding season with good coveys reported in the autumn.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Calling near Muston during the summer (JT), one calling from a barley field near West Tanfield on 8th July (JO.AFGW) and from Eccup Moor on same date.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

ca.20 were estimated at Trent Falls during November and December (AG). Elsewhere widely reported, usually singly and in the autumn and winter months. Proof of any breeding was lacking.

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*

One was flushed twice near Settle on 20th March (BS.SR). One was at Fairburn Ings on 27th/28th October and on 3rd and 11th November (FAW *et al.*).

Corncrake *Crex crex*

One was found dead below wires at Pannal, near Harrogate on 18th June (GTF).

Addition to 1972 report: One called during the summer east of Sawley Dene, near Ripon (per AFGW).

Coot *Fulica atra*

Status as last year with large winter concentrations of 200-500 birds at several waters and larger numbers at a few.

Great Bustard *Otis tarda*

A male was watched at close range on Goathland Moors on 18th August (DC). Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee. This is the second record this century apart from a tail feather picked up on the beach at Spurn in late March 1950, the origin of which can only be conjectured.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

The tendency to breed at lowland gravel pits continues and two pairs reared young at Masham, one at Otley and two pairs by the River Wharfe near Pool. There were several other pairs present at gravel pits and on river shingle throughout the summer but breeding not proved.

Cornelian Bay, south of Scarborough, attracted good numbers of waders which included 220 Oystercatchers on 27th August and 238 on 1st September with 244 on 30th October — the largest counts ever made in the Scarborough district (IJP).

Spurn had large numbers at both ends of the year with 625 on 22nd February the maxima in the early months. In the autumn, 1,000 on 25th October was the maximum in the area. Southward passage offshore was recorded from June to September, mainly in August with 3,601 passing on 29 days during the month, 1,157 on the 21st being the most in one day.

Passage inland followed the usual pattern with birds seen in all months at many waters, usually singly but low single figures sometimes involved mainly during the spring and autumn migration periods. 20 flew north-east over York on 18th August (BP).

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Large flocks in the early months were 1,000 at Knotford Nook on 3rd February and 800 at Denton on the 4th. In the autumn, 1,000 at Blackmoorfoot Res. from 29th July to 11th August, 1,000 at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 8th August, 1,000 at Healaugh on 15th August and 850 at Wintersett Res. on 30th November. Elsewhere many flocks of up to 500 occurred during the same periods. Post breeding flocks assembled from late June and there were 460 at Ogden Res. on the 25th increasing to 600 by 4th July and at Gouthwaite Res. 540 had gathered by mid-July. 620 were at Denton on 8th July increasing to 880 by 16th September and 1,070 on 4th November. 1,000 were at Knotford Nook G.P. on 15th July. The largest flock recorded was 2,300 at Chelker Res. on 22nd December.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Passage in early May was noted at several places inland, with the maxima being 13 at Wath Ings on the 6th, seven at Wintersett Res. on 12th/13th, six at Masham G.P. on the 13th, 21 at Fairburn Ings and 12 at Birkin on the 18th most of which had moved on by next day, and 10 at Farnham G.P. and six at Swinsty Res. on the 20th.

In the autumn, birds occurred at many inland reservoirs, gravel pits and sewage farms. Usually low single figures, but 26 at Wath Ings on 21st/22nd August increasing to 28 by the 26th and decreasing to four by the month-end.

A pair bred successfully, rearing at least one chick, at Grimwith Res. west of Pateley Bridge (PME) and the secies continues to breed away from the coast in V.C.61 with a nest in spring corn two miles inland near Lissett (CV.HOB) and two nests found two miles inland near Bridlington (RV.HOB). One seen on spring wheat at Bempton during May and June whose behaviour suggested breeding (JF.SCM.HOB).

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Breeding details were as follows:

V.C.61 Four pairs proved to breed at three sites:
one gravel pit — two pairs, each four eggs;
one sand quarry — one pair, four young;
one disused runway — one pair, four young.

(1972 correction: Definite breeding proof at only five sites, not 10 as stated.)

V.C.62 Three pairs bred at a gravel pit:
(a) lost eggs; (b) reared four young; (c) reared at least two young.

V.C.63 16 pairs present at 11 sites:
three gravel pits, one reservoir bank, one sewage farm, six spoil heaps/colliery waste. Only 11 young proved to have been reared by three of the pairs although four others had eggs.

V.C.64 15 pairs present at nine sites:
two colliery waste areas — six pairs;
five gravel pits — seven pairs (three with young and one with eggs);
two reservoirs — one pair at each, both with young.

V.C.65 Five pairs at four sites:
one gravel pit — two pairs with young;
two quarries — one pair at each, both with young;
one shingle bank — one pair with young.

The first bird of spring was at Wath Ings on 5th April and birds lingered into late September and October with two juveniles at Lindley Wood Reservoir on the 23rd September, one at Wath Ings on 1st October and one at Wintersett Res. on 29th October.

Kentish Plover *Charadius alexandrinus*

One at Fairburn Ings on 19th and 20th May (IHD.JDP).

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Occurred inland singly, except for two at Wintersett Res. on 23rd September, at nine localities: one in January, one in May, two in August, three in September and two in October.

On the coast, 30 were on Bran Sands on 13th January (FAW). The maximum Estuary Enquiry count on the Humber north shore was 320 on 23rd September (per DBC).

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Many winter and spring flocks of up to 500 reported, with 700 at Bolton Percy on 22nd March (JW), 1,000 over Haverah Park near Harrogate on 20th April (GTF) and 2,300 at Hangthwaite on 11th October (KHP).

On the coast, 600 at Redcar on 11th February (GWF) was the largest flock reported.

Dotterel *Eudromius morinellas*

Two on a fell near Settle on 6th May (FJR). Four were on arable land on Buckton cliff top on 7th May and one was in the same area on 7th September (SCM). 12 passage birds were on a moor in the north-west on 22nd May (DJB).

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

The waders at Cornelian Bay, south of Scarborough, included good numbers of this species with 71 on 1st September, 83 on 30th October and 24th November and 94 on 23rd December (IJP). 100 were on South Gare on 1st September (WN.GWF) and 60 on 13th October (FAW).

Monthly maxima at Spurn were 250 on 3rd/4th January, 164 on 20th February, 148 on 11th March, 198 on 8th April, 124 on 13th May, 12 on 2nd June, 103 on 26th July, 310 on 27th August, 324 on 18th September, 166 on 29th October, 91 on 14th November and 50 on 30th December.

Inland, one at Knostrop S.F. on 21st April, one at Fairburn Ings on 19th May, one at Swinsty Res. on 31st May, one at Tinsley S.F. on 22nd August, one at Wath Ings on 25th/26th August and three on 5th September and two at Chelker Res. on 6th September.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

September and October concentrations occurred as usual with maxima of 100 at Gouthwaite Res., 120 at Wath Ings, 140 at Adwick-le-Street S.F., 100 at Harrogate S.F. (South), 100 at Fairburn Ings and 100 at Sherburn-in-Elmet. At Hampsthwaite S.F., the autumn build up reached 150 by 28th August, 170 by 8th September and 240 on the 11th.

The *schizochroic* bird at Adwick-le-Street S.F. in 1972 was seen up to 17th March 1973.

One caught at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 7th October had been ringed in West Germany on 14th August 1973.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocryptes minima*

The last birds of the spring were one at Wath Ings on 3rd May and one at Spurn on 5th May. First of autumn was one at Spurn on 13th September with another on the 19th then one to two regularly from the 23rd when there was one at Seamer, near Scarborough and one at Wath Ings. Maxima were five at Adwick-le-Street S.F. on 3rd and 4th February, five at Wath Ings on 4th October and six at Adwick-le-Street S.F. on 10th October.

Woodcock *Scalopax rusticola*

Widely reported during the breeding season from V.Cs. 63 and 64. Above average numbers arrived on the east coast in October, Spurn having birds almost daily from the 11th to early November, with seven on 22nd October and birds seen flying in over the sea on several dates.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Flocks of up to 50 birds at several waters during March as birds returned inland with 800 at Settle on the 3rd and 200 at Stocks Res. on the 18th. Several flocks were recorded flying west during August with maxima of 23 over Wintersett Res. on 10th and 18 over Knaresborough Ringing Station on 22nd. 1,800 were on Cherry Cob Sands on 23rd September.

Up to 40 were at Gouthwaite Res. during January and 20 in February with 63 in November and 58 in December. Up to 40 wintered by the River Ure at Leyburn.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Spurn had one on 16th April and then almost daily from the 19th to mid-May, with 11 on 26th April as maximum. Recorded at six inland places in spring, two near Settle on 26th April being the earliest and two at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 14th June. Five other records of single birds were all in May.

In the autumn, recorded singly from several places inland from 14th July to 26th August on which date 13 flew over Stanley S.F. Two over Lindley Moor and one at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 5th September.

27 came in off the sea at Coatham Sands on 28th July (FAW). 20 were at Scalby Mills on 25th August (IJP) and 30 were at South Gare on 26th August (GWF).

At Spurn, almost daily from 6th July to 4th November, with double figures on several dates from late July to early September. 24 came in off the sea on 17th July.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

On the coast, two were on Broomfleet Island on 20th January (ACh), three flew south at Hornsea on 11th August (WFC), singles at Cherrby Cob, Hornsea and Skeffling on 22nd August, 2nd September and 23rd September respectively and three at Paull on 18th November. At Spurn, one flew south on 12th May and singles were on the Humber on 17th, 19th and 20th August, 1st and 9th September.

Inland, two at Fairburn Ings on 17th March and one to four from 31st March to 27th April, one was at Settle on 8th May, one was at Birkin from 18th to 21st May on which latter date one flew over Farnham G.P. (AFGW). Three flew east at Fairburn on 12th May. One was at Wath Ings from 1st to 3rd July (NA) and up to three at Fairburn Ings on a few August dates.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

The Humber Estuary Enquiry figures (north Humber shore from Spurn to Goole) were 78 on 14th January, 45 on 11th February, 48 on 8th April, 178 on 13th May, 130 on 23rd September, 100 on 21st October, and 97 on 18th November (see 1972 report).

18 were in Cornelian Bay on 1st September (IJP) and 80 were at Redcar on the 30th (WN).

Inland, there were five records, one at Gouthwaite Res. on 1st April, three flying over Thorne Moor on 9th May, one at Grimwith Res. on 18th May, three flying over Knaresborough Ringing Station on 19th August and one at Malham Tarn on 22nd August.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

One to three birds recorded at a few places from January to April, mainly during the latter month. Autumn birds were evident from early July with birds at several localities during August and September, more than three together being unusual but 10 on Thorne Moor on 15th July. A few occurred from October to December, mainly at coastal localities.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Only recorded at four places in spring; one at Wath Ings and one at Wintersett Res. on 20th May, one at Birkin from 19th to 21st May, and one at Fairburn Ings on 19th May with two there from 20th to 22nd May.

In autumn, the only inland records were one at Fairburn Ings on 22nd August, one at Swillington on 12th and 19th August (DP), one at Stanley S.F. on 5th September (PS) and one calling over Ardsley on 3rd October (JH.GA), a late date but call tape recorded and confirmed.

At or near the coast, there were five at Scaling Dam on 16th July (DGB.DSS), three at Brandesburton G.P. on 4th August and four on 7th September (WFC), three on Coatham Marsh on 11th August and singles at five other places on eight dates in July, August and September.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Inland wintering is certainly established with one to four birds at 10 places and up to six at a further two in V.C.63 during January and December. 20 were at Long Preston on 28th January and 35 were at Settle on 29th January. One to three wintered at Gouthwaite Res., one was at Swinsty Res. during January and February and two wintered at Swillington Ings.

Cornelian Bay attracted the largest numbers ever recorded in the Scarborough district with 300 on 1st September, 257 on 30th October and 4,392 on 9th November. Spurn's maxima were 1,100 on 16th September and 756 on 27th October, otherwise from 200 to 500 was normal except during May, June and early July.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Singles occurred at a few waters during April, May and June with birds in full breeding dress at Gouthwaite Res. on 17th June and at Hellifield on 28th June. In the autumn birds were recorded at several waters usually singly but two at some places and four at Horbury in mid-September. The coast had a similar pattern with four records only during April to June and several from August to October with singles at Spurn and Cherry Cob on 12th and 18h November respectively. Maximum seen together was 11 at Sunk Island on 27th August.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

One was at Seamer G.P. near Scarborough on 27th May and again on 5th June (RHA.BC. *et al.*). The first county record.

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee. See page 6

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

The pattern of occurrence was typical, with a few scattered spring records during April and May. In autumn, birds occurred throughout the county at most suitable feeding and resting places from early July to October, the main passage occurring during September. The maxima were six at Wath Ings on 14th July, five at Horbury water meadows on 15th August and nine near Brandesburton on 7th September. Elsewhere, from one to three birds were mainly involved.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

The Estuary Enquiry showed 8,125 on 14th January, 7,100 on 11th February, 4,070 on 8th April and 6,720 on 18th April. Cornelian Bay had 200 on 10th September and 242 on 22nd December.

Inland, occurred on eight dates at six waters; one in January, one in July, two in August,

two in September and two in November, singly except for four at Farnham G.P. on 25th August. In addition were 10 flying west over Blackmoorfoot Res. on 2nd September, nine at Eccup Res. on 4th September and 35 flying west over Wintersett Res. on 13th September.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Filey Brigg had 80 on 13th January and 20 to 60 during late January to late March, 50 on 22nd September, which was early for a large number, and monthly maxima of 40 in October, 50 in November and 35 in December.

24 at Bridlington on 3rd February and 20 on 24th March. 55 were on South Gare on 1st January and 40 on 14th February. Cornelian Bay had 85 on 14th October and 130 on 23rd December. Smaller numbers occurred all along the coast during the same periods.

One at Brough Salting on 5th and 6th September was unusual for the Upper Humber (DIMW). This scarce inland species had one representative, at Gouthwaite Res. on 18th November (AFGW.DGL.PJC).

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

The only spring record was at Fairburn Ings with one from 19th to 21st May. In the autumn, occurred at ten places inland and seven places at or near the coast. The first was at Spurn on 2nd August with one at Wath Ings on the 3rd. Most records were during the second half of September and mainly involved one to three birds but 17 were at Cherry Cob on 24th August, 11 at Brough Salting on 20th September with 15 on the 30th and eight at Stocks Res. on 23rd September. A few lingered into early October, one at Masham G.P. on the 7th being the last.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

A good year for this species; one at Farnham G.P. on 20th and 21st May (RE.JRM) and one at Fairburn Ings on 21st and 22nd May (MAB *et al.*).

In the autumn, singles occurred at Seamer G.P. near Scarborough on 26th August (RHA), Knaresborough S.F. on 31st August and 1st September (JRM.RE *et al.*), and Tophill Low Res. on 4th September (DEM).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotus*

One at Fairburn Ings on 25th and 26th May (JDP *et al.*).

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Coastal numbers were high with the Humber Estuary Enquiry (north bank from Spurn to Goole) showing counts as follows: 17,880 on 14th January, 16,715 on 11th February, 17,325 on 8th April, 14,920 on 13th May, 15,150 on 23rd September, 15,240 on 21st October and 19,540 on 18th November. 400 were on Filey Brigg on 4th February — a large number for this locality (DEM). Cornelian Bay, south of Scarborough attracted the highest number ever for the district on 15th December when 880 were counted (IJP).

Numbers inland were also high; 90 flying east up Gouthwaite Res. on 24th February (PJC) being by far the largest number seen away from coastal influence. Passage in May and from July to November was noted at many places with flocks of 10 to 20 birds being frequent; some large flocks being 23 at Gouthwaite Res. on 3rd November, 38 on the 4th and 38 on the 18th — coinciding with low water levels. 143 on the mud of the River Don near Thorne on 30th November. 50 were at Settle on 15th November. Trent Falls had 100 on 15th November and 250 on 17th December. 26 were at Thrybergh Res. on 23rd December.

Breeding pairs were found to be well distributed over the moors of the south-west (JED.DH.Dr.DWY).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Small numbers occurred at nine places during August and September as follows: one at Tinsley S.F. on 23rd August (IF), six at Hornsea Mere on the 26th (DTI), three at Spurn on 28th, one on 28th/29th plus three flying south on 29th. In September, two at Hornsea on 4th and four on 5th (WFC), two at Brandesburton G.P. on 7th (WFC), singles at Stanley S.F. on six dates between 21st and 28th (AC.PS), one at Brough on 18th to 20th (DIMW), two at Fairburn on 21st (GC), five at Masham G.P. on 29th (AFGW) and at Spurn, two on 1st to 4th, one on 6th, 9th and 11th, five on 28th and one on 30th.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Apart from one at Masham G.P. on 4th February (PJC) and one at Birkin on 27th April (JDP), all inland records were in May with one to three, but mainly singly, at seven localities between the 4th and the 20th. 12 flying north near Wintersett Res. on the 20th was an interesting record (PS *et al.*) and six were at Fairburn Ings on same date.

On the coast, 200 were on Coatham Sands on 1st September and 326 were at Redcar on 30th September. 126 at Spurn in August was the maximum for that locality. Coastal numbers elsewhere were much smaller and nowhere exceeded 50.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Records in spring were few with one to four at only five localities in April and May. In the autumn, birds were recorded at many places from early July to October, but only small numbers involved. 15 at Sunk Island on 18th August, 17 at Fairburn Ings on 26th August, 28 at Easington on 14th October and 24 at Cherry Cob on 21st being the only records over 10 birds. One at Broomhill Flash on 7th January (MT *et al.*), singles at Broomfleet Island and Aughton Ings in early November (HOB.ACh) and six at Cherry Cob on 16th December (RV) were no doubt wintering birds.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

One flew south off Spurn on 28th September.

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

One at Filey Brig on 4th February (DEM), and 7th April (RHA.FJT), singles at Cornelian Bay and Jacksons Bay, Scarborough on 25th and 26th November with two at the latter on 27th November (DC.MF.IJP).

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*

One at Spurn on 27th September stayed from 1330 hours until 1700 hours when it left to the north-west (AOA.BRS.RAW).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Three flew south off Filey on 10th February (RHA.FJT). The only other records in the first half of the year were singles off Spurn on 30th May and 16th June.

Occurred in small numbers from 7th July to December, most numerously during mid-September with an isolated movement off Spurn on 21st October when 40 flew south, otherwise numbers did not exceed ten except for 26 flying south at Spurn on 30th September and 16 flying north off Redcar on 30th September.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Singles at Spurn on 11th, 16th and 17th August, with two on 9th and 12th September and three on 30th October. A juvenile found at Spurn on 11th October with a strained wing, flew off strongly four days later after being fed on sardines in oil, dead mice and cotoneaster berries.

Two off Bempton on 11th August, six on 12th, three on 13th, and one on 17th (SCM). Three at Sewerby on 18th August (HOB.JF) and two off Scarborough on 20th August and

19th September (RHA *et al.*), and Filey on 22nd September. Six at Redcar on 30th September, two on 21st October (WN) and three on 8th December (DJB). Singles occurred during August to October at a few other watchpoints.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

As is usually the case, spring records were few; two in the Tees estuary on 4th March, one at Bempton on 3rd April and singles at Spurn on 24th and 27th April with three on 13th May and one on 1st June.

One was at Spurn on 27th June and two at Bempton on 2nd July whereafter occurred in varying numbers almost daily until the end of September with fewer recorded into October and to mid-November. Maxima were 51 flying south off Filey Brig on 11th August, 160 at Spurn on 17th and 250 on 20th, 69 at Hornsea on 4th September and 63 flying south in 30 minutes off Kilnsea on 9th September when 308 were counted passing Spurn and 188 on 30th.

One flew east inland at Knotford Nook G.P. on 21st May (DMP), one flew east over Wintersett Res. on 20th August (PS) and one at Fairburn Ings on 20th October which alighted briefly on the water.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Single adults off Bempton on 12th August (SCM), off Hornsea on 24th August and at Mappleton on 9th September (WFC) with one at Spurn on the same date.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

The usual large coastal numbers with monthly maxima at Spurn of 700 in August and 900 in September. Southward passage was noted off Spurn during these months with maxima of 698 on 3rd September and 633 on 29th.

Inland, the species was numerous with many reservoirs and tips attracting up to 50 birds during the autumn and winter months. Some roosts held larger numbers with 150 at Fewston Res. on 27th January, 120 at Wintersett Res. on 14th January, 150 at Ardsley Res. on 13th January, 400 at Blackmoorfoot Res. from 14th to 27th February and 520 on 15th December. 700 were at the Fairburn Ings roost on 22nd October and 250 were at Knotford Nook on 29th November. See also under Goldeneye.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Many birds were recorded at reservoir roosts during most months but mainly during March/April and September, the maxima being 4,000 at Ardsley Res. on 20th (JED). Several other roosts held up to 500 birds.

One was seen at a nest with three eggs at Grimwith Res. on 22nd June. No young were apparent when the site was checked on 11th and 25th July (MVB).

A pair was on a ledge at Bempton during the summer with Herring Gulls and may have bred but the site was half hidden (SCM.HOB).

A few birds showing characters of the Scandinavian race *L.f. fuscus* were seen at Spurn on several dates in April, July, August, September, October and December.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Large numbers occurred during the winter months at reservoir roosts with Blackmoorfoot Res. attracting 2,000 on 1st January, 1,300 on 14th February, and 1,200 on 15th December. 800 at Ardsley Res. on 13th January and 800 at Lower Barden Res. on 28th January. Elsewhere up to 500 was usual.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

The large passage at Spurn in April and May 1972 was not repeated, and only a few small movements were noted. Birds attracted to flooded fields at Kilnsea, peaked at 800 on 15th December. Large numbers occurred inland, maxima being at the Blackmoorfoot roost with 900 on 15th February and 500 in January and December. 500 were at the Fewston Res. roost on 27th January and smaller gatherings at several other places.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Occurred on the coast during January to April and from September to year-end at several places from Spurn to Teesmouth. Of the 20 reported sightings only three were fully adult.

Inland, occurred singly at Knotford Nook G.P., Gouthwaite Res., Ringstone Edge Res., Walton Hall, Wintersett Res. and Blackmoorfoot Res. all in January, February and March and at Fairburn Ings in December.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*

Singles occurred inland at Almholme on 14th February (GMD.JP), at Broomhill Flash on 15th April (PBW *et al.*), Fairburn Ings on 24th April and at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 5th and 7th May and 29th December (JED *et al.*).

One adult flew south at Spurn on 20th August and an immature was seen on four dates between 23rd and 30th December.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

At Spurn, single adults occurred on 1st April, 30th September, 13th October and 10th November, the April bird being in full summer plumage. A sub-adult at Bridlington on 19th May (PME) and an adult at Hornsea on 9th August (WFC). A second-winter at Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 14th October (DIF) and a different second-winter individual at Scalby Mills on 3rd November (RHA.BC). See page 67 and fig. 1.

Bonaparte's Gull *Larus philadelphia*

An immature at Flamborough Head on 13th September (DIMW). Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

Occurred commonly on the coast and inland: coastal records were from April to November, mainly during September and October. Maxima were 19 north off Hornsea on 5th September, 14 on 6th, 28 south on 13th and 18 north on 20th (WFC). 21 flew north at Spurn on 22nd October and 20 on 23rd. 24 were at Hornsea Mere on 25th August. Elsewhere from one to ten birds was usual.

Inland, recorded at seven waters in April and May, a marked passage occurring from 4th to 6th May when singles were at Knotford Nook G.P. and Gouthwaite Res., two at Eccup Res. and nine at Fairburn Ings. In autumn occurred at seven waters, from July to October, mainly singly but two at Bolton-onSwale G.P. on 18th July and Worsborough Res. on 24th August.

Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini*

One adult at Scarborough on 21st August (CRC.RHA), an adult at Kilnsea on 9th September (DIMW), an adult at Hornsea on 13th September (WFC) and one at Spurn on same date with two on 30th.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Occurred in the usual large numbers on the coast with evidence of continued spread of the Marine Drive breeding colony (RHA).

Inland occurrences were few with three adults at the gull roost at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 23rd February (JED.MLD) and one at Wintersett Res. on 6th May (PS).

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Passage in spring was more marked inland than on the coast. After two at Fairburn Ings on 30th April, there were three on 3rd May and three on the Ouse near York on same date. Two at Fairburn and two at Wintersett Res. on the 4th, then a gap until the 17th when a good passage started with one at Masham G.P. On the 18th, seven at Chelker Res., eight at Knotford Nook G.P., and 16 at Fairburn Ings. Smaller numbers, one to three, were seen thereafter at a few other waters up to 29th May.

On the coast, four at Hornsea Mere on 4th May and again on 27th were maxima with one to two at only three other places during this period. Singles were at Spurn on 16th June, Fairburn Ings on 26th June, Elsecar Res. on 28th June and two at Wintersett Res. on same date.

Autumn records inland, ranged from 15th August to 29th September, at eleven waters, mostly singly but two at three places. Coastal records spanned the period 22nd July to 30th September and nowhere exceeded four birds except for six at Tophill Low Res.on 4th September.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

One at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. on 24th/25th April (WEH.GDM) and one at Bempton on 18th July (SCM).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Common/Arctic Tern *Sterna hirundo/paradisaea*

There were many records inland with birds occurring at several waters from 22nd April to 6th October. Periods of peak passage were mid-May and late July/August with 27 at Fairburn Ings on 18th May and 12 at Knotford Nook G.P. on 20th. On 28th July, 57 were at Wintersett Res., flying north-west in small parties, five were at Wath Ings, eight at Millfield lagoons and six north over Waterloo. 15 were at Eccup Res. on 12th August and at Wintersett Res., 21 passed over on 11th August and 21 again on 12th (when 15 were at Eccup Res.), and 44 flew east-north-east in small parties on 21st. Elsewhere, numbers did not exceed ten birds.

Most of those specifically identified were Commons, with Arctics being identified on only five dates (two on 12th and 20th May and singles on 15th July and 6th August with three on 30th July). Late records on the coast at Spurn were seven on 7th October, three on 10th, one on 11th and six on 23rd.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

Three were at Chelker Res. on 9th May (PMW), and two on 18th May (FAW) when one was at Fairburn Ings. One at Hornsea on 6th August (WFC), one at Spurn on 19th April, two at Filey Brigg on 22nd September (RHA. *et al.*) and two there on 27th September (DEM).

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

More coastal records than for some time with Spurn having passing birds regularly from 27th April to end of August and a few in September. Most occurred during late May with eight on 27th and 17 on 28th. Up to 13 during July and 12 on 1st August. The last was one on 26th September. Elsewhere on the coast, records came from eight places during 25th July to 9th September, 13 at Hornsea on 6th August and seven on 9th September being the maxima.

Inland, one was at Fairburn Ings on 4th May, one at Knotford Nook G.P. on 20th May, one flew north over Wintersett Res. on 21st June (JHy *et al.*) and one was at Ulley Res. on 21st July (DV).

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicencis*

There were nine inland records; one at Wintersett Res. on 28th April (PS), three at Knotford Nook G.P. on 18th May, two at Leighton Res. on 24th June (J & GBR), two at Swinsty Res. on 245h July (FAW), six over Airedale on 28th July, one at Swillington Ings on 12th August (DP), and one at Wintersett Res. on 7th October (PS). At Fairburn Ings, six on 29th July, three on 25th August, two on 8th September and four on 25th September.

Occurred commonly on the coast, mainly during July to September. Maxima were counted at Spurn with 1,250 on the Humber on 23rd July and 2,800 passing north during the day on 26th. 1,000 were on the Humber on 3rd and 6th August and 1,300 were in the area on 16th.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Recorded off Spurn from April to September and during November and December, and at other coastal watchpoints during the same periods. The number of breeding pairs at Bempton is difficult to assess without special study.

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Very few records: one found dead and oiled at Scarborough on 23rd January (JAW), one at Bempton on 18th and 23rd October and one at Trent Falls, flying over the reed beds, on 15th November (AG).

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

One was found dead beneath wires at Wintersett Res. on 30th March and a *bridled* bird was seen on the reservoir from 22nd-27th September (PS.SO. *et al.*).

Recorded commonly off the coast in most months, least frequently from January to March and in December.

Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle*

Singles at Filey Brigg on 10th January (CRC), 7th April (RHA) and 11th November (MF) and Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 27th April (FJT). A first-summer bird found alive in Cayton Bay on 3rd July, died later (KF).

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

Spurn recorded more birds than usual, nevertheless only small numbers were involved not exceeding seven on any one day, during April to June and in September/October. An immature bird was on the river at Fairburn on 3rd October which was caught and released on the Ings (CW).

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

A roost of 40 birds at Hardcastle Crags on 24th February was the largest number reported for the county.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Many roosts of up to 500 birds reported, mainly during the last two months of the year. The largest gatherings were in Haw Park where 1,300 flew into stubble on 9th December and 5,000 on 15th December (PS). 2,500 flew south over Nostell Priory during the morning on 2nd December and 3,000 on 23rd December (GS). 3,000 flew south over Stannington during the morning of 17th December (DH) and 1,460 flew west over Ben Rhydding on 30th December (MVB).

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

First recorded at Wintersett Res. on 20th April (JAB) with the next at Spurn on 27th. The main arrival was during the second week of May. A few were recorded up to late September with one at Knaresborough Ringing Station on the 29th and two at Tickhill Common on 6th October (JMB).

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Extending its range westwards in the south of the county with ca.20 pairs breeding at Midhopestones and Underbank Reservoirs (MW). Large gatherings were 100 roosting in woodland at Selby in November (PR), 103 at Horbury on 5th December (DP) and 200 at a corn mill at Staveley during September (RE).

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

The first was on Yeadon Moor on 15th April with the next at Hampsthwaite on 18th and Wintersett Res. on 20th. The main arrival was during the last week of the month. The last inland bird was on Royd Moor on 14th September, but Spurn had singles on 23rd and on 5th October.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Again, a successful year with breeding occurring at several sites and numerous sightings of single birds from all parts of the county.

A pair at Leathley, near Otley, had young in a barn on 8th March (LM).

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Similar status as in 1972 with most reports coming from the western half of the county.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Commonly reported from all areas of the county.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

As in 1972, most records came from the south of the county in V.C.63 where four pairs known to have bred. A roost at Haw Park held five to six birds regularly during January/ February (PS. *et al.*).

Elsewhere, very few records and the species is obviously under-recorded.

Single birds at Spurn on 13th April, 16th October and 1st and 3rd November were probably of foreign origin.

Short-eared owl *Asio flammeus*

More breeding reports than usual from the high ground in the west of V.Cs. 63 and 64. Outside the breeding season fairly widespread in suitable habitat, usually singly but four at Newton Ings on 4th March and nine at Trent Falls on 17th November (AG) and seven were on the Lower Derwent between Wheldrake and Bubwith on 16th December (GS).

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

V.C.62; one singing near Broxa on 24th June and one at Birdsall on same date (CRC. RHA).

V.C.63; two at Grenoside Woods in May/June (JIM), one at Langsett from 7th to 28th June (NL.MGO), six on Hatfield Moor on 13th June (JP) and five at Wharncliffe Woods regularly from 16th June to 30th July (DH)with up to nine counted in July (ML).

V.C.64; recorded on Sawley High Moor on 24th May, where three pairs bred successfully (JF.HMJ.MRS). One in Haverah Park on 19th August (JPL). Skipwith Common from 25th May with five pairs present (GS). One sang at Parlington, nr. Aberford on 20th June (GT).

Swift *Apus apus*

First was at Hornsea Mere on 28th April with one at Wintersett Res. on 29th and singles at Harrogate S.F. and Knotford Nook G.P. on 1st May and two at Ben Rhydding on same date. 30 were at Esholt S.F. on 2nd May when 14 were at Harrogate S.F.

Large numbers passed at Spurn from June to September, the majority being during July. The maxima were 2,200 on 17th June and 1,200 on 19th July.

A few remained up to late September, the last being singles at Wintersett Res. and Knaresborough Ringing Station on the 18th, at Hornsea Mere on the 20th and at Spurn, up to seven occurred to the 26th with one on 10th October. One was near Driffield on 1st November (JF).

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

One flew east over Knaresborough Ringing Station on 27th May and was watched by several observers as it towered before continuing eastwards (PTT.JLCG.JRM. *et al.*). Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

The Wharfedale Naturalists' Society undertook an enquiry into this species as part of their river survey and located ten breeding sites between Buckden and Pool. Elsewhere, the species was widely reported from most parts of the county being most scarce in V.C.65. 15 were

caught and ringed at Knaresborough Ringing Station during the autumn, one of which, ringed on 15th July, was re-trapped at Marsworth Res. in Hertfordshire on 21st August by Robert Spencer.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

One at Spurn from 5th to 7th May and another on 23rd May. One was at Ben Rhydding on 25th May (MVB).

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

V.C.61; only three records of single birds at Burton Constable, Hornsea Mere and Skipwith Common.

V.C.62; reported singly from 21 localities in the Scarborough district. Three seen together on 24th April at Langdale. Bred near Wilton. One at Marske on 31st December.

V.C.63; nine pairs proved to breed and a further eight pairs probably did so. Seen singly at two other localities outside breeding season.

V.C.64; seven pairs proved to breed in addition to which six pairs were present in the Washburn Valley during the summer. Reported singly from 23 other localities.

V.C.65; reported singly from two localities.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopus minor*

V.C.61; only one record, at Howden on 14th October.

V.C.62; one at Danby on 26th April.

V.C.63; one to two seen regularly from January to March in Bretton Park with a male on 18th November (DP. *et al.*). One in the Broomhead Estate on 11th March was the first seen there for 25 years (JIM). A pair bred at Hirst Wood (WG).

V.C.64; breeding proved at Otley and Shipley. Birds present in the summer at eight other places and recorded singly outside the breeding season at a further five.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

At Spurn one from 24th to 27th April with another found dead there on 24th and singles on 6th and 7th May, one on 10th September, two on 14th and one on 19th October.

Short-toed lark *Calandrella cinerea*

One was at Spurn on 21st September (APA.JCo.RAW). Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

120 were at Knaresborough Ringing Station during early January. 200 flew south over Trent Falls in three hours on 29th November on which date 200 were at Adwick-le-Street S.F. Movements at Knaresborough Ringing Station had maxima of 53 north-west on 29th September, 114 west on 20th October and 240 west on 1st December. 2,000 were on stubble at Healaugh in cold weather on 1st December (DB.MR) and 1,200 flew west over Knottingley on the 3rd. Several smaller gatherings of up to 100 birds were reported during the autumn and winter months.

At Spurn, 964 flew south on 7th October, 1,000 on 14th and 951 on the 26th with smaller numbers during September and November.

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

Between two and nine were on Filey Cliff tops from 13th January to 31st March (RHA. *et al.*). 25 were at Bempton on 3rd and 26th July (RL.DH. *et al.*). Up to 15 were in Jackson's Bay, Scarborough from 12th to 17th March with 19 on the 22nd (JW). 25 were at South Gare on 28th January (DJB). Smaller numbers occurred at Atwick, Flamborough, Easington and Spurn.

At the year-end, the first was at Spurn on 12th October with one at South Gare and four at Filey Brigg on the 13th. Eight were on Filey cliff top on 22nd and 27th October (RHA). 16 were at South Gare on 17th November (DJB). Up to three were at Spurn on several dates during October to December.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

The first was at Harrogate S.F. on 8th April (JH) with two at Knotford Nook G.P. and singles at Almholme and Knaresborough Ringing Station on the 11th. The main arrival was delayed until the month-end and no large spring gatherings were seen until early May. Late birds lingered well into October with several reports up to mid-month after which one was at Barnoldswick on 23rd, four over Wintersett Res. on 28th and one at Ripon on 31st.

Southward passage at Spurn peaked during late August and September with 2,600 on 30th August, 2,139 on 2nd September, 3,594 on 4th, 3,700 on 7th and 1,300 on the 18th. At Fairburn Ings on 23rd September, 300,000 were estimated to be present at a roost.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

One at Fairburn Ings on 7th April was the first and early (DJB). The next were singles at Knotford Nook G.P. and Harrogate S.F. on the 11th after which birds arrived at several areas but the main influx was not until the first week of May.

A few were seen up to 23rd October when one was at Knaresborough and six were at Barnoldswick. One was at Malin Bridge on 4th November (AB), one flew south-west at Settle on 8th November (BS) and one was near Melton Wood on 18th November (WGD).

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

First recorded at Potteric Carr on 25th March (JP). The next was over the Wentworth Estate on 1st April with two at Ripon on the 2nd. build-up was slow and the general arrival was not until the third week.

The last birds were at Stanley S.F. on 2nd October, Wintersett Res. on the 7th and at Spurn on 15th, but most areas were clear of birds by the third week September. 7,000 were estimated to be present at a roost at Fairburn Ings on 12th September.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

The remains of a male were found on Filey Beach on 29th May (PDK). One female was at Spurn on 29th and 30th May.

Raven *Corvus corax*

Not often recorded away from the breeding areas of the north-west. One mobbed a Hen Harrier at Leighton Res. on 27th January (PJC). Two at Ramsgill in Upper Nidderdale on 3rd March (FS).

Seven were on Pen-y-Ghent on 24th May where two adults and four juveniles were seen on the 29th (PME).

Carrion/Hooded Crow *Corvus corone/cornix*

100 roosted at Ogden Res. Plantation during January to March and in the autumn (DJS). 60 were at a roost at Nostell Priory on 14th April and 45 at Haw Park on 17th September. Maxima at Spurn were 22 on 5th May and 32 on 4th November. A brown *leucistic* bird was at Knotford Nook G.P. on 5th June (PME) and an *all white* bird was seen at Newfield Bridge on 28th May (MS).

The Hooded Crow *C.c.cornix* was recorded on the coast from January to May and September to year-end, usually one to four birds but Spurn had 12 on 15th April and seven on 16th. One was near Masham on 10th February and four flew over Knaresborough Ringing Station together on 13th October, an unusual number away from the coast (RE.IJP). One at Fairburn Ings on 28th October and from 15th December to year-end.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

One at Spurn on 25th October flew south to the point then returned north. Only the seventh record from the peninsula.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

80 were on Castle Hill, Scarborough between 3rd and 9th October (RHA), in which month Spurn recorded the maximum autumn movement.

Willow Tit *Parus montanus*

Certainly more numerous than the Marsh Tit in several areas, especially around Ripon, Knaresborough and Lower Wharfedale. In an eight mile stretch of the Washburn Valley from Leathley to Thruscross, F.A.W. counted 25 pairs compared with ten pairs ten years ago.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Reported commonly from most areas during the autumn and winter months with several large flocks, the maxima being 50 at Lindley Res. on 25th February (IAH), and 60 on 17th October (PJC).

Spurn had several records in October with 15 on the 11th, which were caught in the Warren trap, as maximum.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Widespread reports from most suitable localities in V.Cs. 63 and 64 with fewer in V.Cs. 62 and 65. No reports from V.C. 61.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

Rare in V.C.61 and two former breeding sites were deserted this year. Breeding proved near Kirkham Abbey, a long established site according to local people (LS.HOB).

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

Two were at Hornsea Mere on 16th January (DJB). Many birds were recorded during the autumn; 80 at Hornsea on 12th October of which at least six remained next day, one of which had been ringed in Norfolk. Present on Broomfleet Island from 22nd September to year-end with seven on first date, 23 on the 25th, 37 on 4th October, 53 on 7th, 81 on 29th, 130 on 30th, 150 on 27th November, 100 on 29th/30th November, 109 on 2nd December and 23 on 9th (ACh). Five feeding in willowherb at Cloughton Wyke on 24th October (JW). Spurn had five records in October; two on 14th, five on 20th, three on 26th, two on 27th, five on 29th and one on 11th November.

Two were at Adel Dam, Leeds from 14th to 17th October and two at Fairburn Ings on the 28th. Two males, each wearing a blue colour ring and a B.T.O. ring were seen at Worsborough Res. from 5th to 11th November. They arrived at Wintersett Res. on 16th and were netted on the 18th. One had been ringed at Minsmere, Suffolk on 18th September 1973. Both birds were then seen at Nostell Dam on 25th November where they remained until 16th December (JSA.PBW.GS. *et al.*).

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

The largest flock reported was 50 in Dob Park, Washburn Valley on 23rd September (RL). A few other flocks were seen but none exceeding 20 birds.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Some large spring flocks as departing birds gathered; on 31st March 850 were at Bolton Abbey and 1,400 at Halton Gill including a *leucistic* bird which was buff except for brown wings and breast markings (MVB). 3,950 flew north over Barden Moor on 3rd April (MVB), 1,000 near Harrogate on 12th (AFGW) and 2,000 going to roost in conifers in Gisburn Forest on 13th (BS). Many smaller flocks were noted during the same period. Several birds lingered well into May with numerous records up to the 7th when 20 were at Bempton, whereafter five were at Wath, Nidderdale on 13th, singles at Gouthwaite Res. and Pannal on 15th, one at Beaverdyke Res. on 16th, two near Pen-y-ghent and two near Fairburn Ings on the 24th. At Spurn one to two were seen on several dates to the month-end. Two were at Bempton on 1st June, one was in the Little Don Valley on the 9th and on at Spurn on the 14th. Singles were at South Cave on 16th June, Thorne Moor on 7th July, near Sheffield on 24th July, Ingbirchworth on 12th August and Broomhead Res. on 27th. Spurn had singles on 10th, 14th and 28th August and 6th September with one to two regularly during the

month from the 12th. One was at Flamborough on the 13th and one over Knaresborough Ringing Station on the 15th.

The first influx was during 23rd to 25th September when several places had small numbers but the main arrival was, as usual, from mid-October. Spurn had 1,900 coming in over the sea during the day on the 18th and many inland localities recorded westward movement during the next few days.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

A coastal influx during early October with 'a heavy fall' at South Gare on 4th/5th and 80 at Spurn on 4th and 150 on 7th. A *leucistic* bird at Gouthwaite Res. on 18th March was pale cream in ground colour, especially on wings and tail.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

The largest gathering in the early months was 400 at Bretton park on 14th January (DP). 1,400 flew south-west at Wintersett Res. during cold weather on 20th January (PS). Birds had left most areas by the third week April but a few lingered into May; one at Pannal, near Harrogate on 3rd, singles at Slaithwaite and Ben Rhydding on 6th and one at Bempton on 21st. One ringed at Spurn on 24th May and singles seen on 26th and 29th with on 25th June. The one ringed on 24th May was retrapped on 8th September.

One at Spurn on 28th August, then one to two regularly from 13th September. The first influx was at the end of September with a few at Flamborough on 23rd, 45 near Ilkley on 25th, eight at Hornsea on 28th and five inland at Wintersett Res. on 30th. The main arrival was on 1st October when birds were recorded at several places with more coming in during the next two weeks. 400 flew north-west over Knaresborough Ringing Station and 400 were at Healaugh on 13th and there were 500 at Fairburn Ings and 730 at Ben Rhydding on the 21st.

Addition to 1972 report: after moving over the Washburn Valley' add: on the 14th with 2,900 flying north-east over Knaresborough Ringing Station on the 15th.

Ring Ousel *Turdus torquatus*

The first were at Ramsgill and Dallowgill Moor on 24th March (FS.WG). Singles at Digley Moor and Sutton Moor on 28th and one at Kettlewell on 29th.

A male at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 2nd and 3rd April with Fieldfares was unusual away from the high ground but followed heavy snow. 25 fed on rowans at Burbage Brook, near Sheffield, from 15th to 23rd September. Three near Digley on 6th October.

A few occurred on the coast during late September, October and early November with six at Spurn on 4th and 5th October, five at Flamborough on 7th (HOB) and up to five at Spurn during 12th to 17th October as maxima.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Spurn had the usual October influx with 150 on 5th, 200 on 7th and 150 on 11th whereafter smaller numbers occurred until 6,000 on 22nd and 1,700 on 31st. Only 450 remained on 1st November, 100 on 2nd and 85 on 3rd. 200 were on Scarborough Castle Hill on 5th October (RHA).

A complete albino was in the Valley Gardens, Harrogate in March and April (JO.FAW).

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

The first were three males at Scalby, near Scarborough on 10th March (JW). One was at Thruscross in the Washburn Valley on 14th March (PME) with the next on Digley Moor on 22nd, singles at Ogden Moor and Crossland Hill on 23rd, Upper Nidderdale and Settle on 24th and in several other areas before the month-end.

Birds were still at inland sites during the third week of September, the last being near Harrogate on 19th October (FAW) and at Wath Ings on 28th (NA) when the last occurred at Spurn.

Spring passage at Spurn peaked at 24 on 23rd April and 48 on 12th May. In autumn,

37 on 29th August and 55 on 13th September were maxima. 20 were at South Gare on 4th October.

Amendment to 1972 report: The first bird should read 18th March, not 18th April.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

Inland occurrences were fairly numerous with singles and pairs recorded from 14 Pennine localities (with breeding proved on Rombalds Moor and in Ribblesdale), and from four lowland areas in V.C.64 during October and November. Seen at 20 places in v.C.63 from January to March and mid-September to year-end with eight on Agden Moor on 29th September (DH).

Coastal occurrences were all during the autumn and winter months, January to March and late September to December with up to four at Spurn on several dates at the year-end.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

A male on Digley Moor on 26th April was the first with two at Gouthwaite Res. and one at Spurn on 28th and singles at four localities on the 29th, the main arrival being during the first week of May. The last inland bird was at Marley S.F. on 6th October, the majority of areas being clear of birds by the end of the third week in September.

At Spurn, a few passed up to 5th October with two on 7th and 8th and one on 11th, 13th and 14th.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

The general impression is one of comparative scarcity with very few breeding records reported. The first was at Spurn on 23rd April with one at Wintersett Res. on 24th and one at Flamborough next day. Records from several places during the last three days of the month. The last inland birds were singles at Wath Ings and Balckmoorfoot Res. on 30th September.

Spurn had passage during August, September and October with ten to 26 present from 13th to 17th September, 40 on 4th October and 30 on 5th as maxima. Other coastal areas had small numbers during the period 4th to 6th October.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

There were five inland records; a ♂ at Hampsthwaite from 4th to 16th April (per AFGW), a ♀ at Dean Head Valley on 1st April (PB.JED), a ♂ at Adwick-le-Street S.F. on 4th May, a ♂ in the centre of Sheffield on 7th May (GPM) and a ♀ near Sedbergh on 2nd September (BS).

On the coast occurred from 24th March to early June and from mid-September to early November, low single figures usually involved but up to 13 at Spurn from 22nd to 29th April.

A pair nested in the vent-pipe of a tug in a Hull dry-dock. Six young were in the nest on 19th June and they fledged on 22nd/23rd. The second breeding record for V.C.61.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

One singing eight miles north of Doncaster on 7th May and two pairs subsequently with one juvenile seen (JDP). One was singing at another site nearby on 13th May. Two singing on Thorne Moor from 13th to 19th May (ML *et al.*). One sang near Knaresborough from 13th to 15th May (WHJ.AFGW).

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

Singles at Spurn on 18th May, 1st October and 1st to 4th November. One at Flamborough on 5th September (DIMW).

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

The usual coastal influx occurred during October with maxima of 250 at Spurn on 4th when 40 were at South Gare, 15 were at Redcar and 70 were on Castle Hill, Scarborough. 170 were at Spurn on 16th and 150 on 17th.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

The first arrivals were during 27th to 29th April with singles at Spurn, Scarborough and Wath Ings on the 27th, four at Wintersett Res. and one at Hornsea Mere on the 28th and at four other widely separated places on the 29th.

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*

One heard at Hornsea Mere on 16th August and seen on the 17th (DTI.SCM).
Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

One trapped near Redcar on 19th May (GWF.SCN. *et al.*). The second county record.
Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Spurn had three passage birds in May and singles on six dates in August with one on 11th/12th September and two on 13th, then two on 11th October. One was trapped at Saltend on 12th October and the last at Hornsea Mere was on the 13th.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

One at Spurn on 20th April with one at Wintersett Res. on 28th and at Potteric Carr and Fairburn Ings on 29th. The main arrival was from 5th May.

A few stayed into October; one at Ardsley Res. on 2nd, Heckmondwyke S.F., Stanley S.F. and Wintersett Res. on 4th, and the last at Hornsea Mere on 12th.

Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*

One trapped at Spurn on 12th August. The second county record (JC. *et al.*). Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

Singles at Spurn on 29th May, 14th, 28th and 30th August and 6th and 11th September.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

A male and female at Ilkley during January to March with a second female on 31st January. A male at Burley on 28th January and a male at Menston on 18th and 28th February with a female at the same place from 6th March to 4th April. A female was at Skipton on 3rd March.

The first migrants were in evidence from 7th April with the main arrival being during the third week. Some inland birds lingered late with singles at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 6th, 13th and 31st October and 3rd November (JRM.RE *et al.*). One was ringed at Edgerton on 4th November (MLD).

Birds were passing on the coast at Spurn daily during October up to the 29th and at Filey, Flamborough, Scarborough, Redcar and Teesmouth during the month. Spurn had late birds, up to three, on seven November dates and one on 9th December.

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

Spurn had one to two from 24th to 29th August and one on 31st. Two on 2nd September with one to two on eight other dates during the month and one on 2nd October. Singles were at Flamborough on 25th/26th August (DIMW) and Bempton on 26th (SCM).

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

The first and early was at Masham G.P. on 22nd April with the next at Wintersett Res. on 28th and Fairburn Ings and North Cave on 29th. The first influx was from 2nd May and several places had their 'firsts' during the next few days.

The breeding population was considered to be similar to 1972 with pairs very thinly

distributed and certainly no indication of any significant increase. B.S. saw only one in the Settle area all summer.

A few passed at Spurn up to 30th September but most places inland were clear of birds by mid-month. One was at South Gare on 13th October (FAW) and one at Spurn on 31st.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

One near Knaresborough on 27th April (PVI) and four at Fairburn Ings on 28th were well ahead of the next at Wintersett Res. on 5th May with several places having birds during the next few days. Occurring more commonly than formerly in several areas.

The last inland was near Huddersfield on 27th September. One at Spurn on 5th October.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

The main arrival was from 15th April after an early isolated bird at Wintersett Res. on the 3rd. Inland birds were recorded up to the third week in September with coastal records at Spurn on 4th October and Filey Brigg on 5th. 527 were caught and ringed at Knaresborough Ringing Station mainly during the autumn with peak movements during mid-July and mid-August.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

Singles in Locke Park, Redcar on 23rd/24th August (AJWh *et al.*) and from 31st October to 2nd November (DJB).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

One in a garden at Bessacar, nr. Doncaster, on 10th January (IJI) on which date one was seen at Birstwith and again on the 11th and 12th (BNK). One sang at Masham on 10th March and at Harrogate S.F. on the 23rd. Birds arrived at several places during the next few days with two at Fairburn Ings on 24th and three at Studley Park on the 25th (DJB). Singles were at Knaresborough Ringing Station and Ripon on 6th October and late birds were at Edgerton on 4th November, Scarborough on 22nd (RHA), and Bessacar on 25th (JED.JMB).

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

One at Spa Gill wood, nr. Ripon on 27th April was an average arrival date and one in Bolton Abbey woods on the 29th, but it was not until the second week of May that most other areas recorded their firsts.

Seldom encountered as a passage bird away from breeding areas; one at Spurn on 27th September being the only coastal record.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

At Spurn, one on 3rd October, two on 4th and one on 28th. One was on Filey Brigg on 4th October (CRC).

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

A large coastal influx in early October: Spurn had 120 on 4th and 5th, 60 were at South Gare on 4th (ECG), 100 were at Filey Brigg on 5th and 150 were on Castle Hill, Scarborough on same date (RHA). Spurn had 550 on the 19th and most other coastal areas had smaller numbers during these same periods.

A large influx at Melton Wood from 22nd October probably contained birds of continental origin and several other areas reported increases at this time, but of 23 birds caught at Knaresborough Ringing Station, mainly during October, those which were critically examined were all showing characters of the British race (JRM *et al.*).

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

Singles at Spurn on 5th, 17th and 25th April, 14th May and 16th September. One at Bempton on 25th April (SCM), two at Flamborough on 15th/16th September (HOB) and one at Brough Haven on 21st September (DIMW). One at Fairburn Ings on 10th November (PDK *et al.*).

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

The first was at Cottingley Wood on 28th April with the next at Ripley on the 29th — the earliest ever recorded in Nidderdale (AFGW). 5th May was the first date of widespread arrival and most places had birds during the next few days. Inland, most birds pulled out by the 3rd week of September and coastal records thereafter were few. Spurn had up to seven to 1st October and then fewer, the last being on 11th October. One was at Flamborough on 7th October.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Coastal passage was evident from 8th August at Bempton and from 11th August at Spurn. One at Bempton on 31st July was early (SCM). Numbers were generally low single figures, 45 at Spurn in August being the daily maximum. Regular passage continued to mid-September with a few records up to 11th October.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

One at Spurn from 13th to 16th September with a second bird on the 14th and a third on the 16th. One on 14th/15th October. One was at Flamborough on 13th/14th October (HOB *et al.*).

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

ca.50 on Castle Hill, Scarborough during 3rd to 9th October (RHA) was the only autumn movement noted.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

One at Spurn on 6th May was the first ever spring record there. Singles flew south on 21st and 27th October on which latter date a second bird was seen on the 'canal zone'.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Spring passage inland was noted at several places with 150 at Ben Rhydding S.F. on 25th March and at Harrogate S.F. where 60 on 9th March increased to 120 by the 23rd after which numbers dropped before an influx during cold weather on 1st and 2nd April when 200 were present. 80 were at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 1st and 90 on 2nd April when 450 were at Knotford Nook G.P. 100 were at Ilkley S.F. on 10th April.

In autumn, southerly passage at Spurn had maxima of 2,400 on 17th September and 1,000 on 18th. 332 flew south-west in one hour over Wath Ings on 20th September. 160 were at Grimwith Res. on 9th September and 100 at Lindley Res. on 16th. Many other places recorded smaller concentrations during September as birds moved off the high ground.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

The first was one at Agden and two at Langsett on 14th April. The next were at Knotford Nook G.P. on 21st, Spurn on 22nd and near Ripon on 24th. Spurn recorded light autumn passage from mid-August to mid-September with six as daily maximum and singles on 1st and 8th October.

Inland areas were deserted by mid-September.

Rock Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Inland occurrences were again numerous with singles at 13 localities during March/April and October to December, some birds staying for several days and one at Stanley S.F. on several dates from 23rd October to 30th December.

One showing the characters of the Water Pipit *A.s.spinoletta*, was at Wintersett Res. from 24th to 26th March with a second bird there, in different plumage, from 1st to 3rd April (PS.PBW.JHy). One at Trent Falls from 19th to 22nd November (AG).

A bird showing characters of the Scandinavian Rock Pipit *A.s.littoralis* was at Brough Salting on 24th December (DIMW).

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

The status was as in 1972 with spring and autumn concentrations at sewage farms, reservoirs and autumn roosts. No gathering in excess of 200 was reported. Birds showing characters of *M.a.alba* were recorded at 12 places on several dates from March to May and at Spurn on 2nd September and 7th/8th October.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

A pair bred in the north-west of V.C.61, the first record for many years. Widespread in the north and west of the county. Several passed south at Spurn during late August, September and October with up to three regularly during September and five on 8th October. Singles were also seen at other coastal localities during this same period with three at Hornsea Mere on 13th August.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

The first was at Harrogate S.F. on 15th April with one at Ilkley S.F. and two at Wintersett Res. on 17th and at several places from the 19th. Spring flocks were few and small, the maxima being 32 at Knaresborough S.F. on 29th April and 20 at Harrogate S.F. on the 30th.

In autumn, several places had larger gatherings; 38 at Wintersett Res. on 25th August and 44 on 4th September. 90 flew mainly east over Altoft Ings on 29th August. 40 roosted at Adwick-le-Street on 6th September. 40 were at Knaresborough S.F. on 15th August and 30 to early September. One trapped there on 26th April had been ringed in Senegal in March 1971. Late birds were one at Wintersett Res. on 9th October and at Knaresborough S.F., a male was seen from 22nd October to 11th November. It had a slightly drooping wing but could fly strongly.

One at Newtondale on 20th May showed the characters of *M.f.thunbergi* (DEM.TWU).

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

Very few records with two at Grenoside on 8th February, three at Harrogate on 10th and two at Scotton, nr. Knaresborough, on 15th being the only ones inland in the early months. One to nine were in the Scarborough district during January to March. One was at Middlesborough on 2nd March and 4th April and one at Scarborough on 5th April. One found dead in Harrogate in *early* October, one at Silkstone Common on 11th November, one at Ilkley on 2nd December and two at Skipton on 18th/19th December.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

Recorded singly from 13 localities during January to April — most records being during February and March. One stayed at Spurn until 1st May. Present at 17 places from October to year-end, all singly except at Spurn where the species was recorded on 17 October dates with two on 16th/17th and 28th and three on 29th.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

An immature near Easington on 29th and 30th August (BBn.BRS *et.al.*).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

One at Flamborough on 14th and 15th September (DJB.DIMW).

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

At least 1,000 came in off the sea at South Gare on 22nd October (GLC) and birds came in at Spurn on several October dates and a few in November with 720 on 31st October as maximum.

The usual large roosting assemblies were reported and an increase in numbers inland coinciding with the coastal influxes.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Recorded only in V.Cs. 61, 63 and 64:

V.C.61; one caught at Spurn on 25th October.

V.C.63; one at Rockley on 16th December (BB).

V.C.64; two at Ilkley on 24th April (DAR), one in Middleton woods, Ilkley, on 16th April and 6th May (PME.LGD) and one in Bolton woods on 8th May (SJB). 70 in Studley Park on 13th January was the largest number ever to be recorded (MAB) and there were 15 on 4th November and 21 on 11th December with smaller numbers on other dates during January to March and November/December (MAB.DJB). One at Fairburn Ings on 2nd December.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

1,100 were at Spurn on 2nd January and 824 flying south on 8th October was the maximum at the year-end. By far the largest gathering elsewhere was at Thorne Ashfield during February and March where the flock reached a peak of 700 on 22nd February and 3rd March, decreasing to 500 by 13th March and 50 by 16th (CW).

Several other feeding flocks of 100 to 200 were reported from V.Cs. 63 and 64. A roost at Melton Wood built up from 50 on 6th March to 500 on 3rd April (550 caught and ringed during the period). 500 were again present at the year-end (WGD *et al.*).

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

At Spurn on 7th October, 92 flew south and 100 flew north in the morning and 38 flew south in the afternoon. A flock of 30 was at the 'point' in the morning and others were in the 'warren' area. At Flamborough on the same date, HOB recorded "an unusual number of parties present".

Numbers inland were again high, as in 1972, and several autumn flocks of 30 to 60 were recorded. 100 were at Potteric Carr on 8th April (JP), 80 were at Settle on 4th September (BS), 72 at Newton on 23rd September and 80 were in Bretton Park during October and November (GC).

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

An increasing number of summer records with suspected breeding at two sites west of Sheffield and in Harrogate Pinewoods. Bred successfully at another site near Harrogate and fledged three young. Feeding at peanut bags was recorded from Ilkley in February, Harrogate during February to April and Grantley Hall, nr. Ripon in March.

Many winter flocks were reported, the maxima being 50 at Gouthwaite Res. on 2nd January (DJB), 70 at Bretton Park in January, 100 at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 6th January and 100 at Downholme, nr. Richmond on 11th January (DTM).

Linnet *Acanthis cannabina*

Southerly passage at Spurn in spring and autumn had maxima of 1,320 on 27th April and 1,063 on 28th, 1,800 on 5th May and 1,000 on 6th, 892 on 29th September and 1,238 on 8th October.

Many flocks of up to 100 reported from all over the county with noticeable increases at several places in March and April when birds returned after the winter. 450 at Knaresborough Ringing Station in mid-August was the largest feeding flock reported. A roost on Thorne Moor held 250 on 30th March and 400 on 16th December.

Twite *Acanthis flavirostris*

Commonly reported from the hill country in the west. On Sutton Moor, 22 nests were located and 200 were flocked on 17th September with 100 from 19th September to 7th October (DH). On Greenhow Hill, nr. Pateley Bridge, a flock increased from 36 on 20th July to 120 by 3rd August and 140 by 8th September (AFGW.PJC.FS). 100 at High Bradfield on 22nd April, 100 at Strines Res. on 10th August, 250 near Ingbirchworth on 15th August and 150 at Ringstone Edge Res. on 5th September were other maxima with smaller flocks occurring at Malham Tarn, Settle, Rathmell, Tinsley S.F., Scammonden, Blackmoorfoot Res., Grimwith Res. and Oughtershaw with a few birds at other places.

Coastal records were scarce; 32 on Paull Holme Salting on 11th February and single figures at Spurn on a few dates in February/March and September to November being the only ones reported.

Redpoll *Acanthis flammea*

Several reports of large flocks, up to 100 birds, during the autumn and winter months from the west of the county. 180 at Leighton Res. in August was the only gathering exceeding 100.

Birds showing characters of the Mealy Redpoll *A.f.flammea* were; three at Bretton Park on 14th January (JED), one at Sandal Brickworks on 4th February (PS) and one at Spurn on 24th March and three on 5th May.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Widespread reports with one flock of 30 at Staveley on 18th December and 50 on Thorne Moor in small parties on 4th February. 96 were caught and ringed at Knaresborough Ringing Station, mainly during September/October.

Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

One caught at Spurn on 11th September, another present on 14th/15th September, one caught on 23rd September, one on 12th/13th October and one on 21st October (JC.BRS *et al.*).

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

V.C.61; Two at Hornsea Mere from 21st to 31st March (DTI). Four near Beverley on 21st April (DEM) and one at Spurn on 26th May.

V.C.62; Eight at Low Dalby on 18th January (RHA), six near Scarborough on 18th March and up to 20 at Raincliffe during mid-April (AJW.CRC.BC). Present in the Keldy Castle area during March to May with up to 30 birds present on 24th March (HOB.LS).

V.C.63; Reported from 10 localities in the western half, chiefly January to June, usually small numbers but a few flocks of up to 20. Breeding suspected at several places but proved only at Strines Res when both adults were watched feeding a newly fledged juvenile (DA).

V.C.64; Several small parties noted in the western half of the area mainly near Lindley Res., Gisburn Forest — where 16 on 12th May included juveniles, and in Harrogate Pine Woods where up to eight occurred regularly during January to April, with one flock of 20, and where 27 were seen on 29th April which included 10 recently fledged juveniles. Four males were still singing strongly and the species obviously bred there (PHH.PJC).

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Big flocks of chaffinches are scarce and although widespread the species is thinly distributed. Up to 50 were on South Gare on 4th/5th October (WIB) and 100 were at Spurn on the 4th and 30 on Castle Hill, Scarborough on the 5th. Inland flocks of notable size were 100 at Bretton Park on 14th January, 145 at Midhope Res. on 10th November and 275 on 1st December.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

A few flocks remained over from 1972 with 180 at Sawley Dene and 100 at Staveley on 18th ~~July~~ Feb, 100 in Bretton Park during January/February and 104 on the Wentworth Estate on 18th March.

A good autumn for the species with many areas having good numbers, up to 50, from mid-October to year-end. 100 at Flamborough on 7th October was the first influx. 600 were near Stannington in early November and two flocks of 300 and 600 were at Midhope Res. on 1st December (RW).

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

Large winter flocks were 120 at Birkin on 2nd January, 148 in a reed-bed roost at Wath Ings on 27th March and 350 there on 26th December (NA). 60 were at Wintersett Res. in September/October, and 58 at Healaugh on 1st December (DB). Smaller flocks occurred at a few other places.

One at Scaling Dam on 16th July (DGB) was a new locality for a singing male and a few others were reported on the fringes of the known pockets of breeding suggesting spread.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

150 to 200 near Harrogate at the end of January (MO) and 200 at Healaugh on 11th November (DB.PK. *et al*). were the only sizeable flocks reported.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

A male at Scalby Beck, Scarborough on 5th and 6th May (RHA.BC *et al.*). One at Spurn on 5th September and one on 15th.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Southward passage at Spurn in September and October with 98 on 22nd September, 453 on 8th October, 190 on 20th, 335 on 24th and 258 on 26th. Good numbers were at Filey Brigg during the same period with 30 on 5th October and on 10th November as maxima (RHA) and the species was plentiful on Flamborough Head on 7th October (HOB).

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

In the early months there was one at Atwick on 2nd February (WFC), one at Spurn on 10th, one at Filey Brigg on 17th and on 10th March (RHA). The first autumn bird was at Flamborough on 13th September (DIMW) with one to four almost daily at Spurn from the 18th to the month-end and into October. 18 at Spurn on 23rd/24th October and 13 on 17th November were the maxima there. Filey had three on 6th October and up to six in November (RHA). 30 were on the Marske/Redcar clifftop during December, decreasing to 10 by the year-end (DGB).

One at Cupwith Res., nr. Huddersfield, on 6th January was watched at close range on the ground (JED).

Correction to 1972 Report: The first autumn bird at Bempton should read 17th September (not December).

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

47 at Atwick on 2nd February (WFC) was the only large flock in the early months, otherwise up to five occurring at Spurn, Kilnsea and Filey Brigg.

The first autumn bird was at Spurn on 11th September with one at Flamborough on the 13th. 16 flew into Filey Brigg from the east on 20th October (RHA). Numbers were generally low, the largest flocks being 40 at Filey Brigg on 10th November (RHA), and 50 at Burniston Bay, Scarborough on 17th November (JW) and at Spurn where 94 flew south on 11th November and 57 were present on 17th.

Inland occurrences were scarce and records came from only five moorland localities with one to four birds being involved and from Knotford Nook gravel pit where one was seen on 24th December (PJC) and Fairburn Ings where one flew east on 9th December.

The following species also occurred in the county during 1973:

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus,* **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis,* **Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis,* **Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor,* **Red Grouse** *Lagopus lagopus,* **Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa,* **Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus,* **Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus,* **Common Sandpiper** *Tringa hypoleucos,* **Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus,* **Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopus major,* **Rook** *Corvus frugeligus,* **Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula,* **Magpie** *Pica pica,* **Great Tit** *Parus major,* **Coal Tit** *Parus ater,* **Marsh Tit** *Parus palustris,* **Tree Creeper** *Certhia familiaris,* **Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes,* **Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin,* **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus,* **Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus.*

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

whose initials appear in the classified list
(with apologies for any omissions)

N. Addy; A. O. Aitken; G. E. Alderson; R. H. Appleby; J. S. Armitage; D. Atter; G. Aynsley; S. J. Baines; B. Banson; R. E. Batty; A. Baverstock; J. M. Bayldon; J. Beale; D. G. Bell; M. V. Bell; M. A. Blick; A. G. Blunt; J. A. Booker; W. I. Bousted; R. Boyle; D. Braithwaite; P. Bray; D. J. Britton; Miss S. Brooks; H. O. Bunce; B. Caffrey; P. J. Carlton; G. Carr; A. Chapman; T. Charlton; C. R. Clark; D. Clarke; K. Clarkson; B. Cockerill; J. Collman; J. Cudworth; W. F. Curtiss; D. B. Cutts; J. E. Dale; M. Densley; M. L. Denton; L. G. Dewdney; R. F. Dickens; I. H. Dillingham; G. M. Dunkley; W. G. Dye; R. Evison; Miss J. Fairhurst; D. Farnaby; K. Fenton; G. T. Foggitt; G. W. Follows; D. I. Fotherby; I. Francis; M. Francis; R. A. Frost; J. L. C. Gandy; E. C. Gatenby; D. Gosney; W. Gott; A. Grieve; Mrs. J. Hall; W. E. Hallett; J. Hancox; J. Hartley; D. Herringshaw; J. Hewitt; I. A. Hogg; C. Hogg; P. H. Hooper; P. Hutchinson; J. J. Obbotson; M. G. Ibbotson; D. T. Ireland; P. V. Irving; Miss H. M. Jackson; W. H. Jowsey; B. N. Kendrick; P. D. Kirk; J. P. Laidlaw; J. C. Lavin; J. H. Lawton; N. Leece; D. G. Leonard; R. Lightfoot; M. Limbert; S. C. Madge; L. Magee; J. I. Martin; J. R. Mather; G. P. Mawson;. D. T. McAndrew; G. D. Moore; P. Moxon; D. E. Murray; D. T. Murray; S. C. Norman; W. Norman; Mrs. M. Ogilvie; Miss J. Owen; M. G. Oxlade; J. Palmer; K. H. Pearson; B. Pepper; J. D. Pickup; D. Proctor; I. J. Proctor; D. M. Pullan; S. Ralph; P. Reid; R. J. Rhodes; M. Richardson; F. J. Roberts; G. B. Robinson; Miss M. R. Sanderson; Mrs. M. Shimeld; B. Shorrock; G. Smith; L. Smith; P. Smith; B. R. Spence; D. J. Standring; E. C. Sterne; M. Stringer; D. J. Sutcliffe; W. J. Sutherland; M. Swift; F. Symonds; J. Temple; F. J. Thompson; G. Thrussell; P. T. Treloar; M. Turton; T. W. Upton; R. Vaughan; D. Vickers; A. F. G. Walker; F. J. Walker; C. Wall; D. I. M. Wallace; A. J. Wallis; F. A. Wardman; D. R. J. Watkins; Mrs. J. Webb; M. Wells; R. Wells; A. J. Wheeldon; J. Whitehead; R. A. Williams; Miss A. Wilson; C. Winn; P. B. Wordsworth; Miss M. Wray; P. M. Wright; D. W. Yalden.